



DEFIANT

2

\$2.50

\$3.25 CANADA

# WAR DANCER



# ALONE and UNARMED

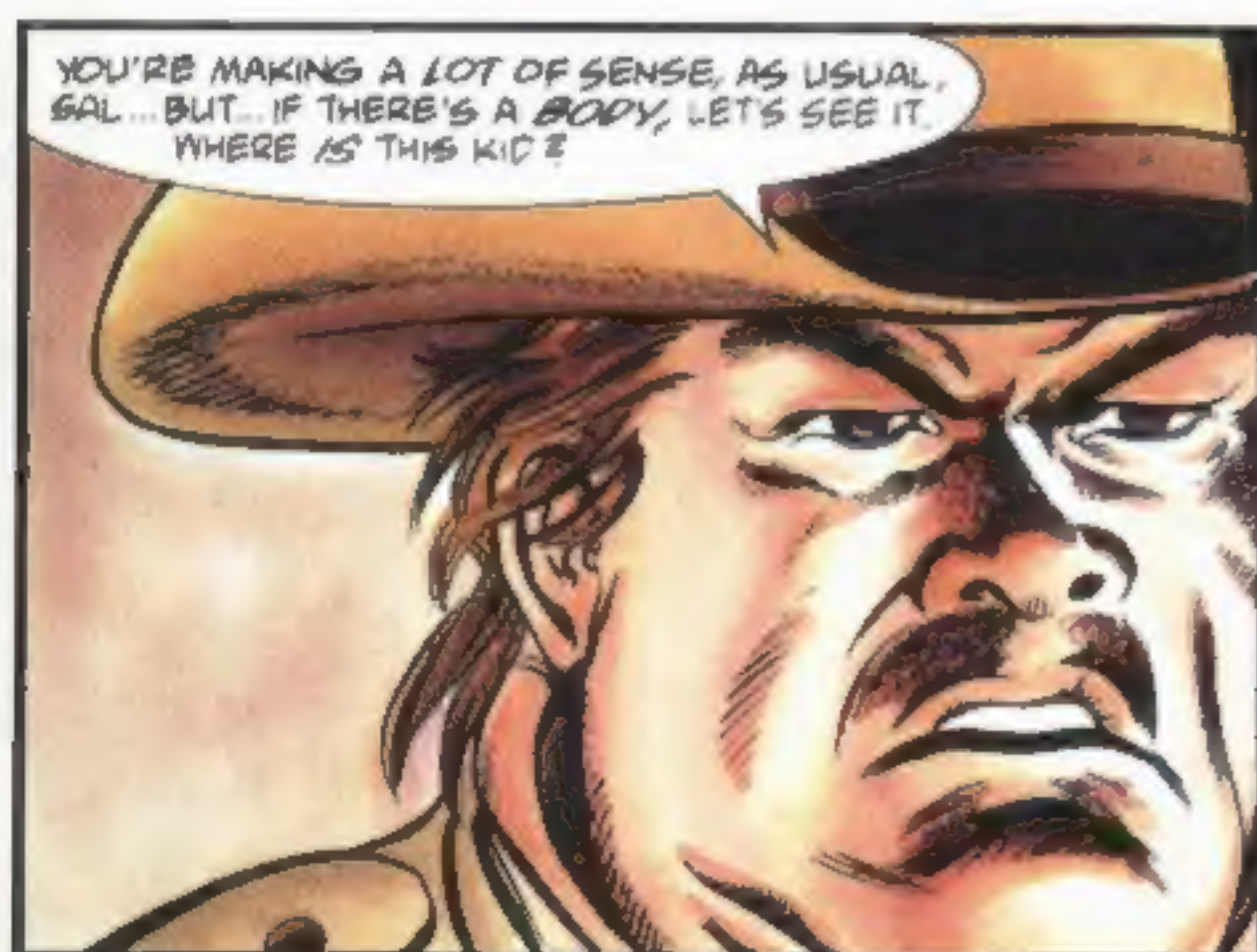
THE REMAINS OF THE HOME  
OF SALLY THROCKMORTON  
NEAR BOULDER, COLORADO.

DO NOT BE  
ALARMED.

DON'T TOUCH ME...  
YOU MURDERER!

SAL... I CAN'T  
WAIT TO HEAR  
WHAT HAPPENED  
HERE.

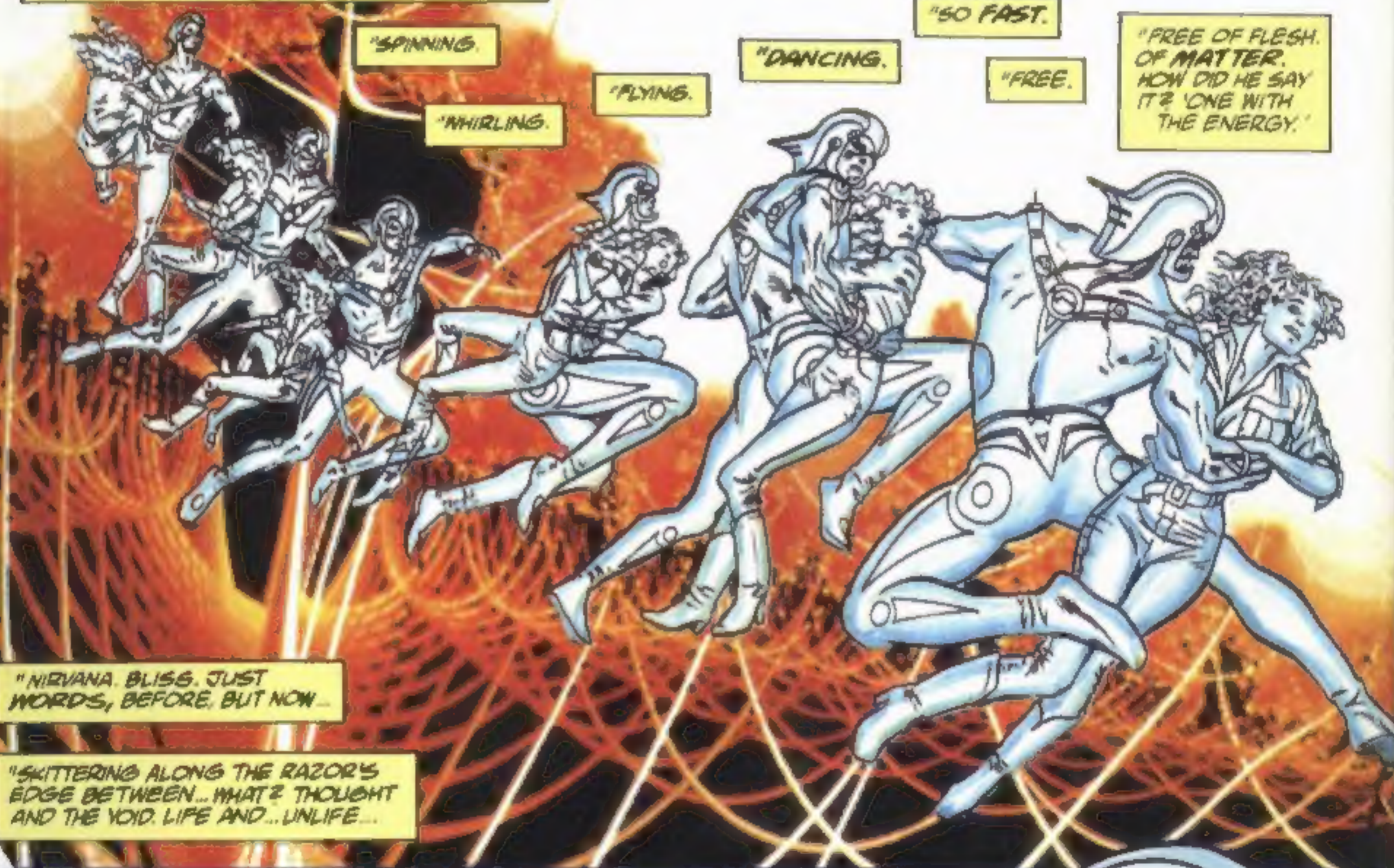
WRITTEN BY  
ALAN & JIM  
WEISS & SHOOTER  
DRAWN BY  
ALAN WEISS  
INKED BY  
CHARLES YOAKUM  
PAINTED BY TIM PERKINS  
LETTERED BY CLEM ROBINS  
EDITED BY DEBORAH PURCELL  
LOGO DESIGN BY ALEX JAY  
LOGO PAINTED BY LYMAN DALLY







"HE SCOOPS ME UP, AND SUDDENLY WE'RE..."





MMP.

HM?



WHOA! I FEEL LIKE I FELL ASLEEP ON THE BUS!

I GUESS I PASSED OUT.



YOUR FRAIL CONSCIOUSNESS COULD NOT ENDURE THE RHAPSODY.

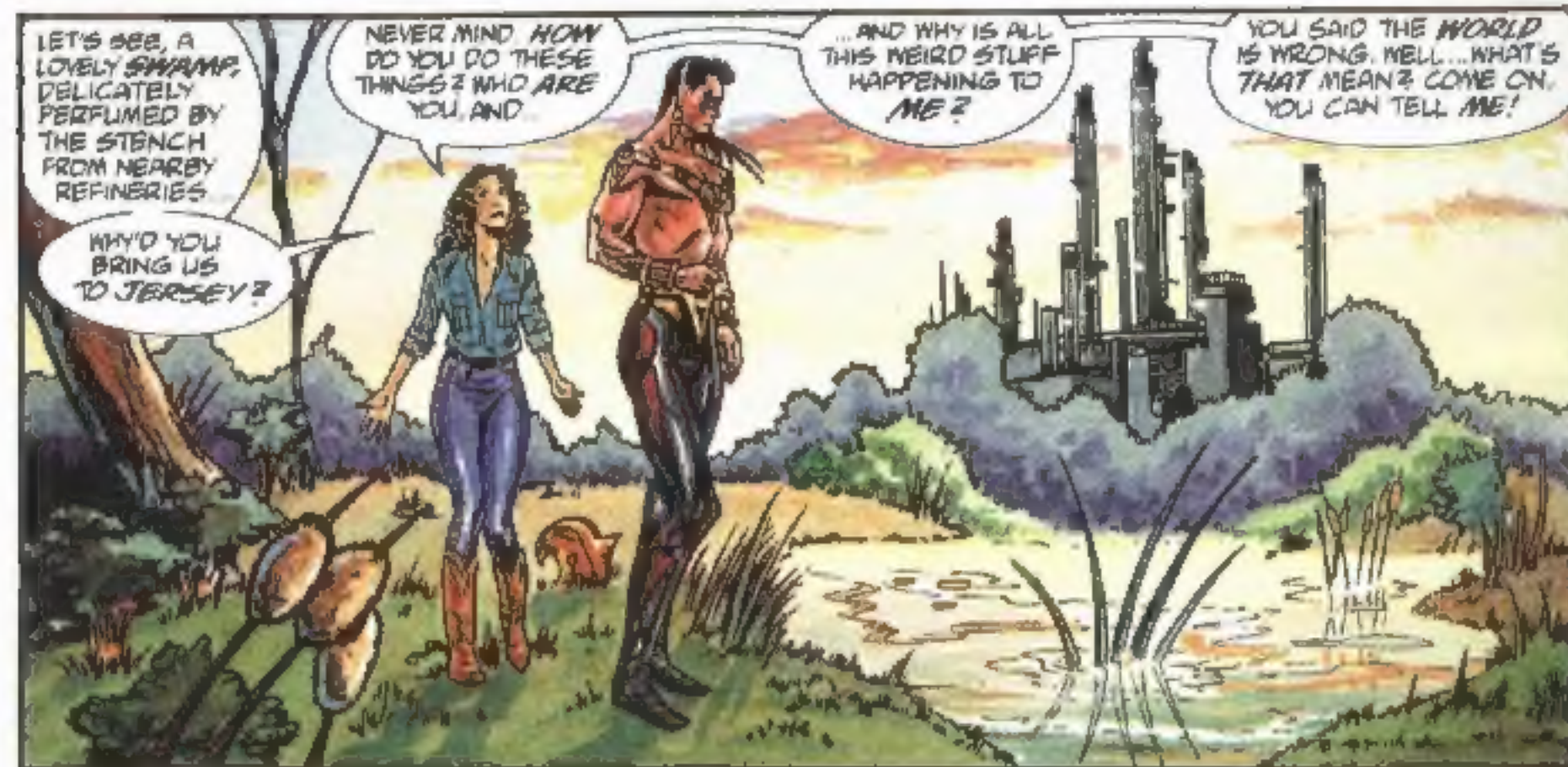
HEY, MY EYE DOESN'T HURT ANY-MORE!



IT WAS A SIMPLE MATTER TO REPAIR THE INJURY AS WE RETURNED FROM THE PLANES OF THOUGHT AND ENERGY. WHY CLOTHE THE SPIRIT IN DAMAGED FLESH?

RIGHT.

HEY, WHERE ARE WE? NO, LET ME GUESS.



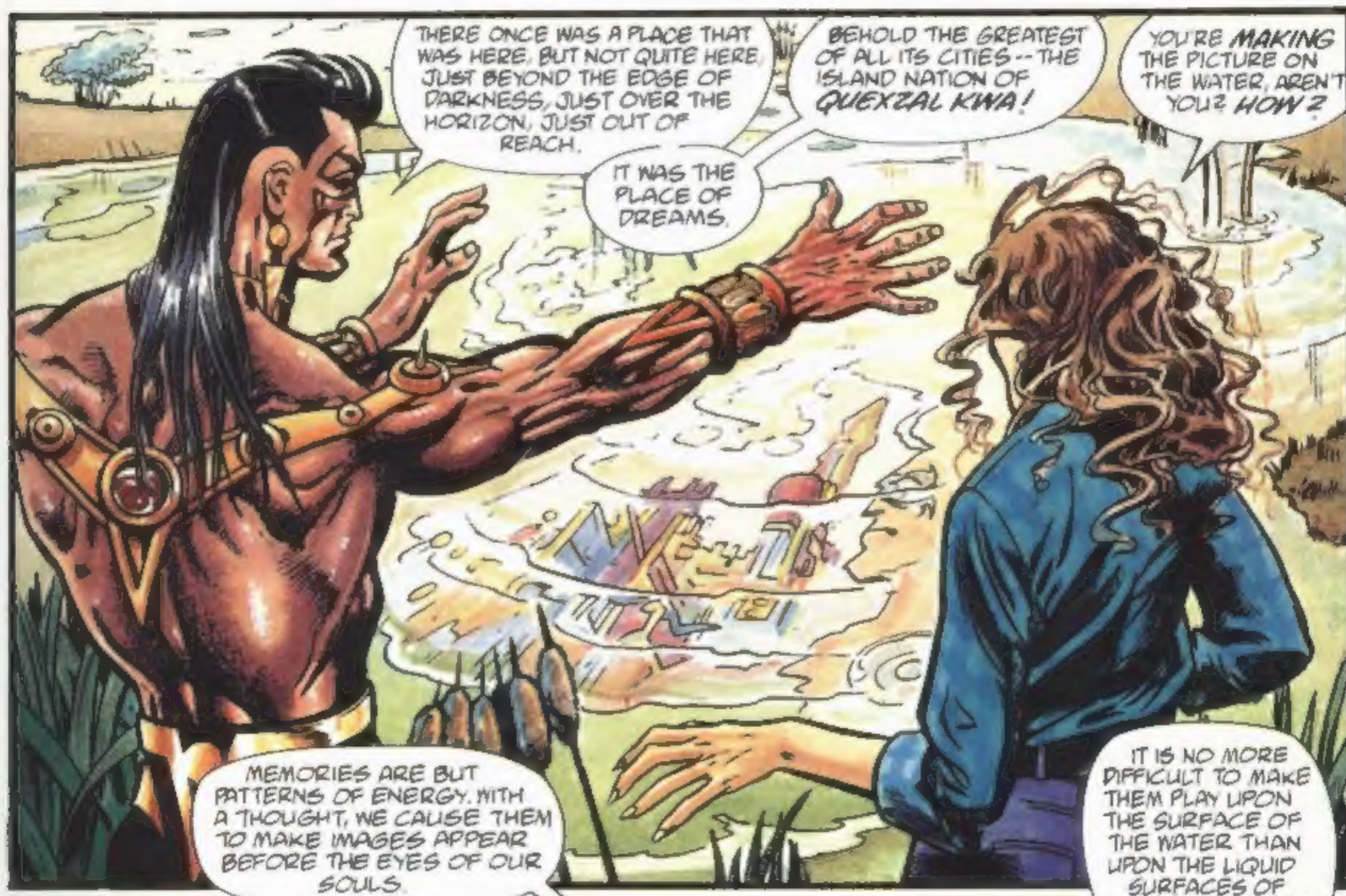
LET'S SEE, A LOVELY SWAMP, DELICATELY PERFUMED BY THE STENCH FROM NEARBY REFINERIES.

WHY'D YOU BRING US TO JERSEY?

NEVER MIND HOW DO YOU DO THESE THINGS? WHO ARE YOU, AND

...AND WHY IS ALL THIS WEIRD STUFF HAPPENING TO ME?

YOU SAID THE WORLD IS WRONG. WELL...WHAT'S THAT MEAN? COME ON, YOU CAN TELL ME!



"THE DAYS OF MY YOUTH WERE DARK AND DESPERATE TIMES FOR THE PLACE OF DREAMS...

"...BUT BEAUTIFUL QUEXZAL KWA SHONE LIKE A STAR AND THE GLOOM OF THE WORLD, A LONE BEACON OF HOPE.

"I WAS A PRINCE AMONG MY PEOPLE...



"THUS, I WAS PRIVILEGED TO STUDY THE ARTS OF SCIENCE, MAGIC, LOVE, WAR, AND LORE.

"AS MY WISDOM AND PROWESS GREW, I GAINED GREAT RENOWN THROUGHOUT THE CITY.

"I RECEIVED MUCH PRAISE AND MANY HONORS...



"...THE GREATEST OF WHICH WAS A GOLDEN HELMET BEARING THE SACRED CREST OF KALAT NEM!

"THERE WAS TALK AMONG THE LEARNED THAT DESTINY HAD CHOSEN ME TO END THE AGE OF DESPAIR!"



WM... ARE YOU OKAY, AHRQ?

YES...THOUGH TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND YEARS HAVE NOT EASED MY SORROW.





"THERE WAS...NO SORROW FOR ME, THEN. MY PEERS AND I WERE YOUNG!"

"HE LAUGHED, HE PLAYED, HE JOUSTED IN THE SKY! WE WERE FREE!"



"ROMANCE HARMED THE NIGHTS! BEAUTIFUL WERE THE WOMEN OF QUEXZAL KWA!"

"BUT THERE WAS ONE..."

"HER NAME WAS ZAHNRHEE."

"...BORN TO THE ROYAL HOUSE, HEIRESS TO THE THRONE OF NEM...A SORCERESS AND SCIENTIST WHOSE WISDOM BELIED HER SCANT YEARS."



"SHE WAS BEAUTY."



"ONLY THE BEAUTY OF HER SPIRIT MATCHED HER FORM."

"I HAD TO MAKE HER MINE..."

"...AND I DID ON THE HAPPIEST DAY OF MY LIFE."

"...WE WERE WED."

"ALL QUEXZAL KWA REJOICED FOR US, AND THE CELEBRATIONS LINGERED FAR INTO THE NIGHT. BUT AS EVENING SHADOWS DEEPENED, RAHNREE AND I SLIPPED AWAY."

"WE KNEW THAT IN THE UNION OF OUR SPIRITS LAY THE POWER TO SHAKE THE HEAVENS..."

"...AND WE MEANT ON THAT, OUR WEDDING NIGHT, TO CAST A SPELL THAT WOULD BRING AN END TO THE DEATH, DESTRUCTION, AND DESPAIR THAT PLAGUED OUR WORLD."

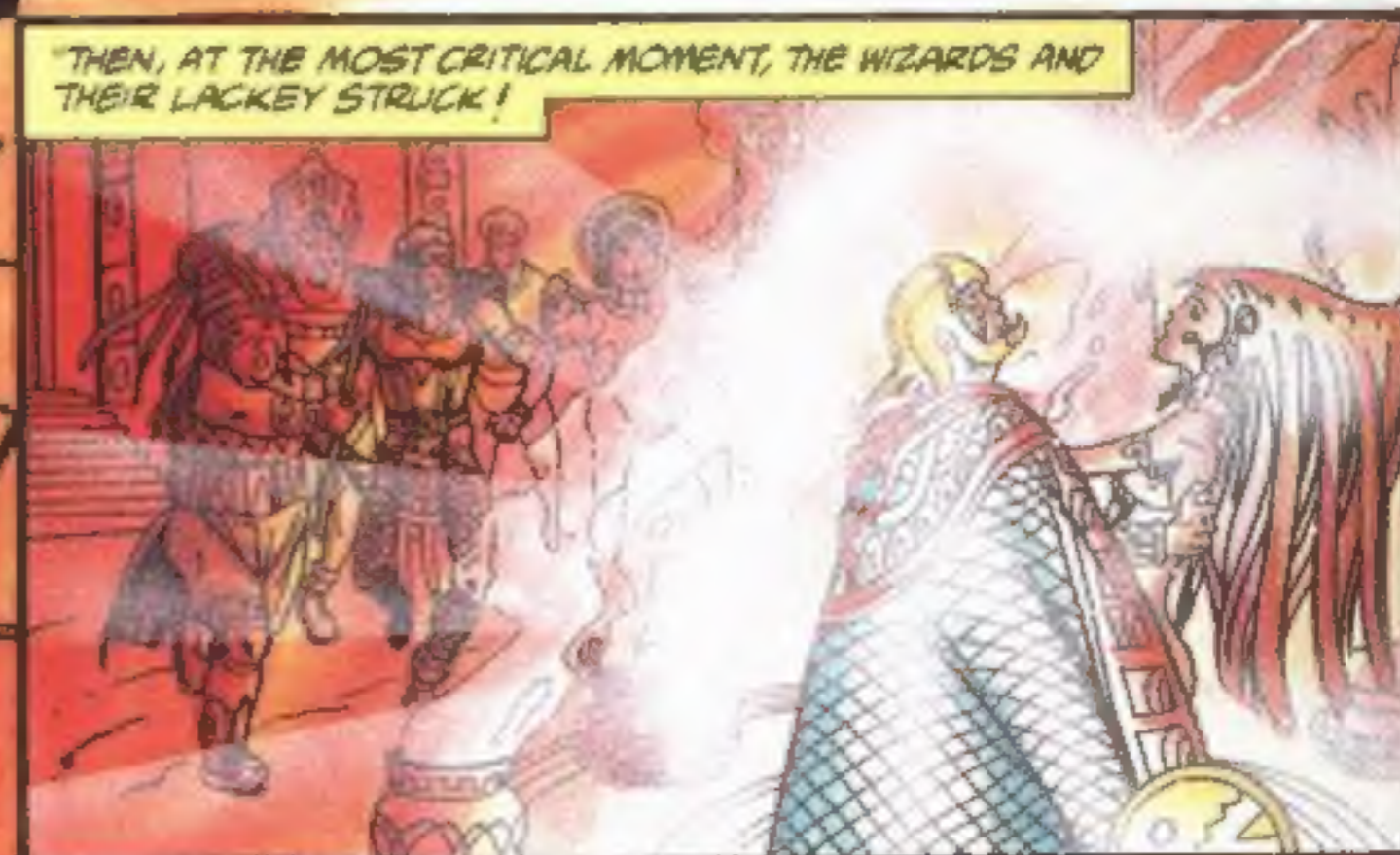
"BUT SOME ON THE COUNCIL OF WIZARDS FEARED OUR PLAN AND COVETED OUR POWER."

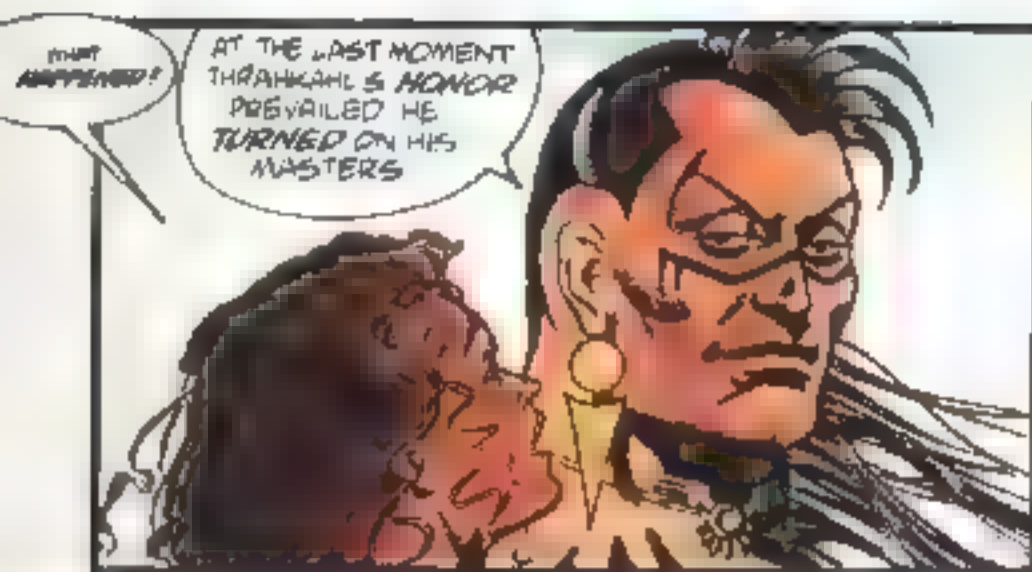
"THEY SOUGHT OUT MY NIGHTIEST RIVAL, THRAHKANL..."

"...AND PROMISED HIM RICH REWARDS IF HE WOULD SLAY US... AND HELP THEM USURP OUR MAGICAL ENERGIES."

"IN THE GARDEN COURTYARD, MY LOVE AND I BEGAN OUR SPELL—THE RITUAL DANCE OF TWO."

"THEN, AT THE MOST CRITICAL MOMENT, THE WIZARDS AND THEIR LACKEY STRUCK!"



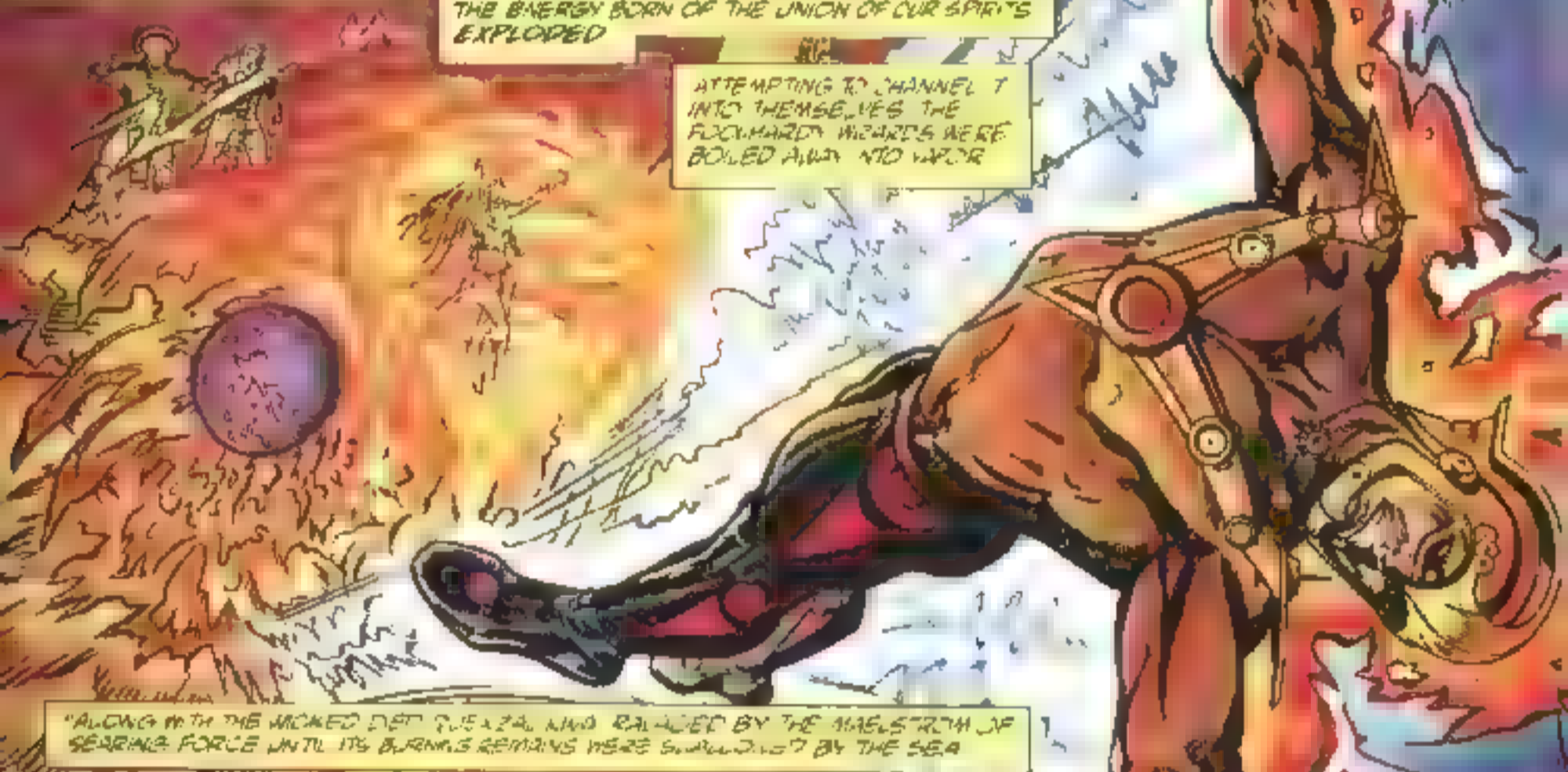


"DESERTED BY THRAHKAL IN DESPERATION, THE WIZARDS CONJURED THE MIGHTY FEATHERED SERPENT - THE VERY SPIRIT OF OUR WORLD!"

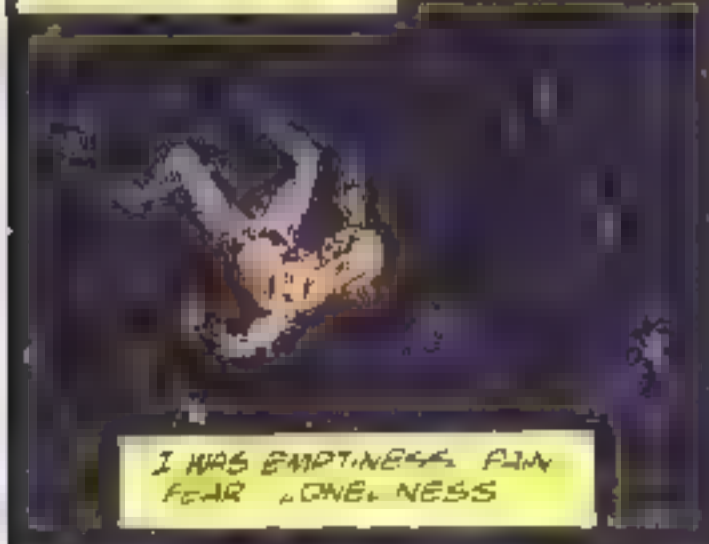
"THE SERPENT SHATTERED OUR SPELL, DEVoured THE ESSENCE OF MY ONE--MY BEAUTIFUL ZAHNRHEE--AND SLITHERED BACK TO ITS LAIR"

"UNCONTAINED BY THE PATTERNS OF THE DANCE THE ENERGY BORN OF THE UNION OF OUR SPIRITS EXPLODED"

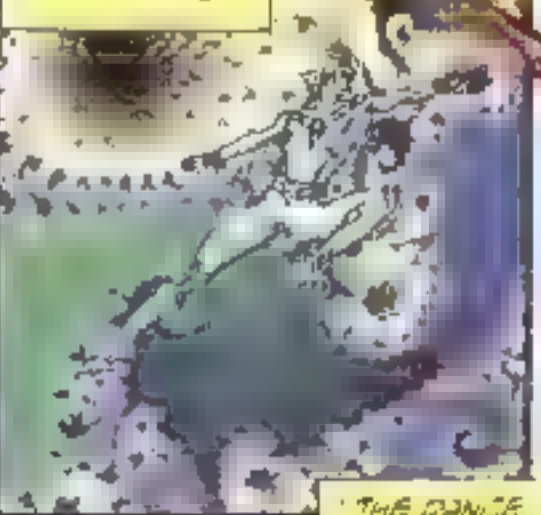
ATTEMPTING TO CHANNEL IT INTO THEMSELVES THE FOOLHARDY WIZARDS WERE BOILED AWAY INTO WATER



AND AS MY FLESH MELTED INTO ENERGY MY SPIRIT WAS HURLED INTO THE VOID TOSSED BY THE CURRENTS OF ENDLESS ENERGY A CAPTIVE OF CHAOS



"BUT AFTER THE HELLWELL I LEARNED TO SENSE THE VIBRATIONS, FEEL THE RHYTHMS--AND DANCE THE DANCE OF THE INFINITE"



THE DANCE IS BLISS



I WAS HOW  
CAN I DESCRIBE  
IT?

WELL IF IT WAS ANYTHING  
LIKE THE RIDE YOU GAVE  
ME



BETTER,  
I BET  
RIGHT?

ONLY THE VOICE OF ZAHNRHEE  
CALLING MY NAME COULD HAVE  
DRAWN ME AWAY. IF THE MEREST  
WHISPER OF HER SPIRIT ENDURES

I MUST  
FIND  
HER!

SO... YOU THOUGHT  
YOU HEARD HER VOICE  
COMING FROM MY  
DIRECTION AND  
YOU TURNED UP  
ON YOUR  
PYRAMID--

THE TEMPLE OF NEM I  
THOUGHT OF IT AS I COALESCED,  
AND SO IT, TOO, APPEARED IN  
SUBSTANCE

ZAHNRHEE IS  
OF THE HOUSE  
OF NEM

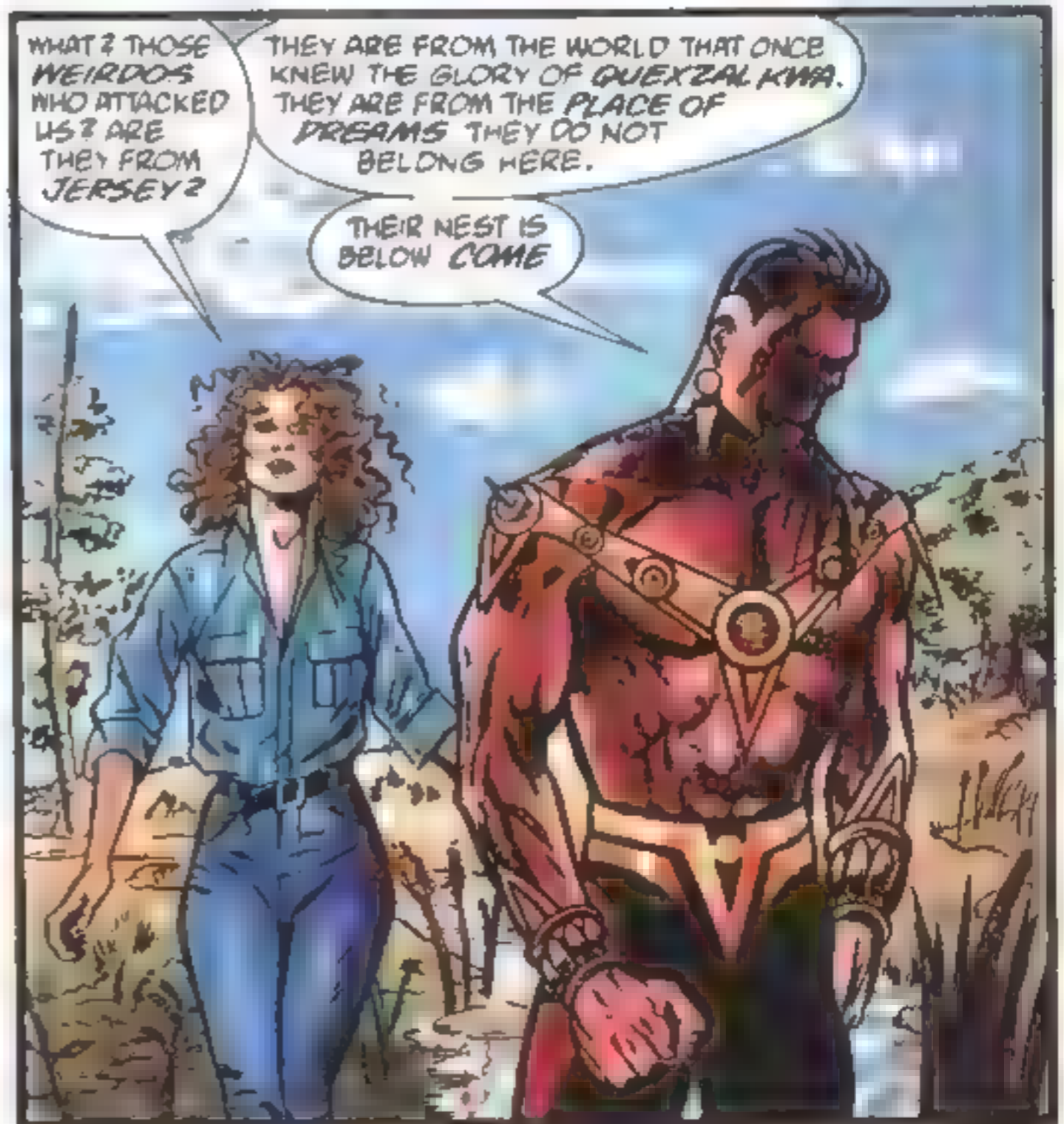
AND YOU  
ARE MOST  
CERTAINLY NOT



WHY WAS I DRAWN TO YOU?  
WHERE IS ZAHNRHEE, IF SHE  
YET EXISTS?

THOUGH MY HEART  
ACHES TO SEARCH  
FOR THE ANSWERS...

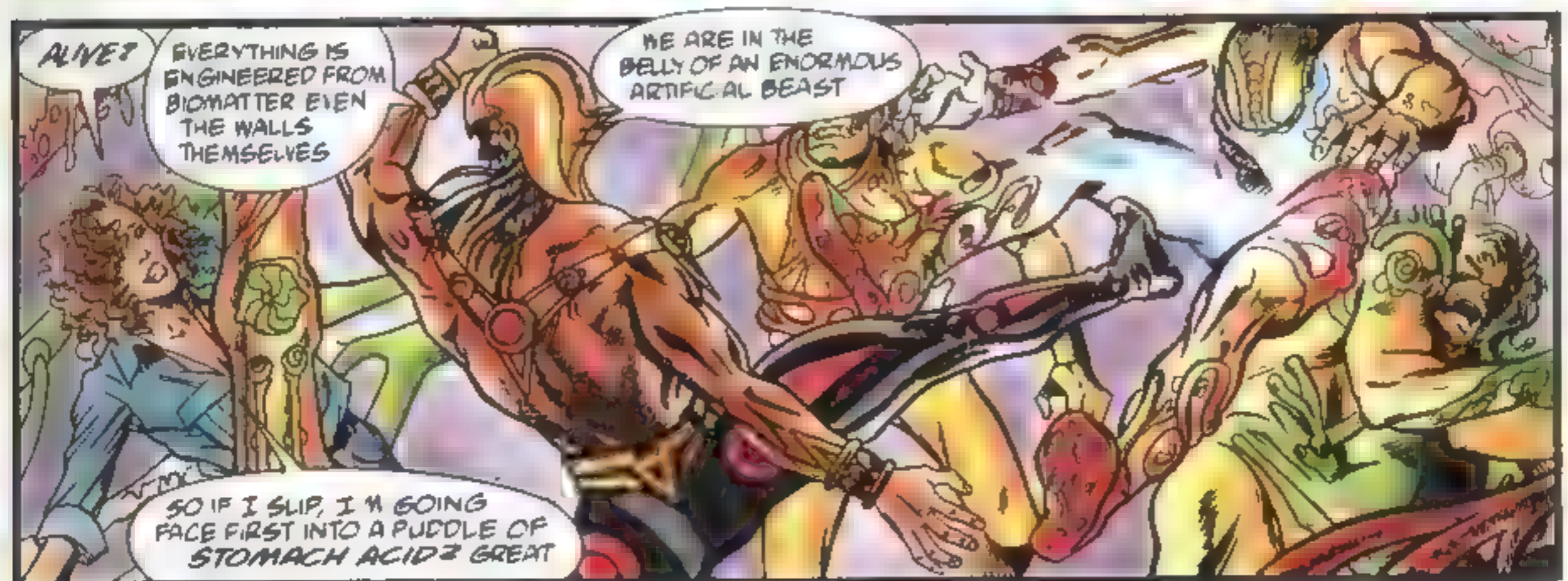
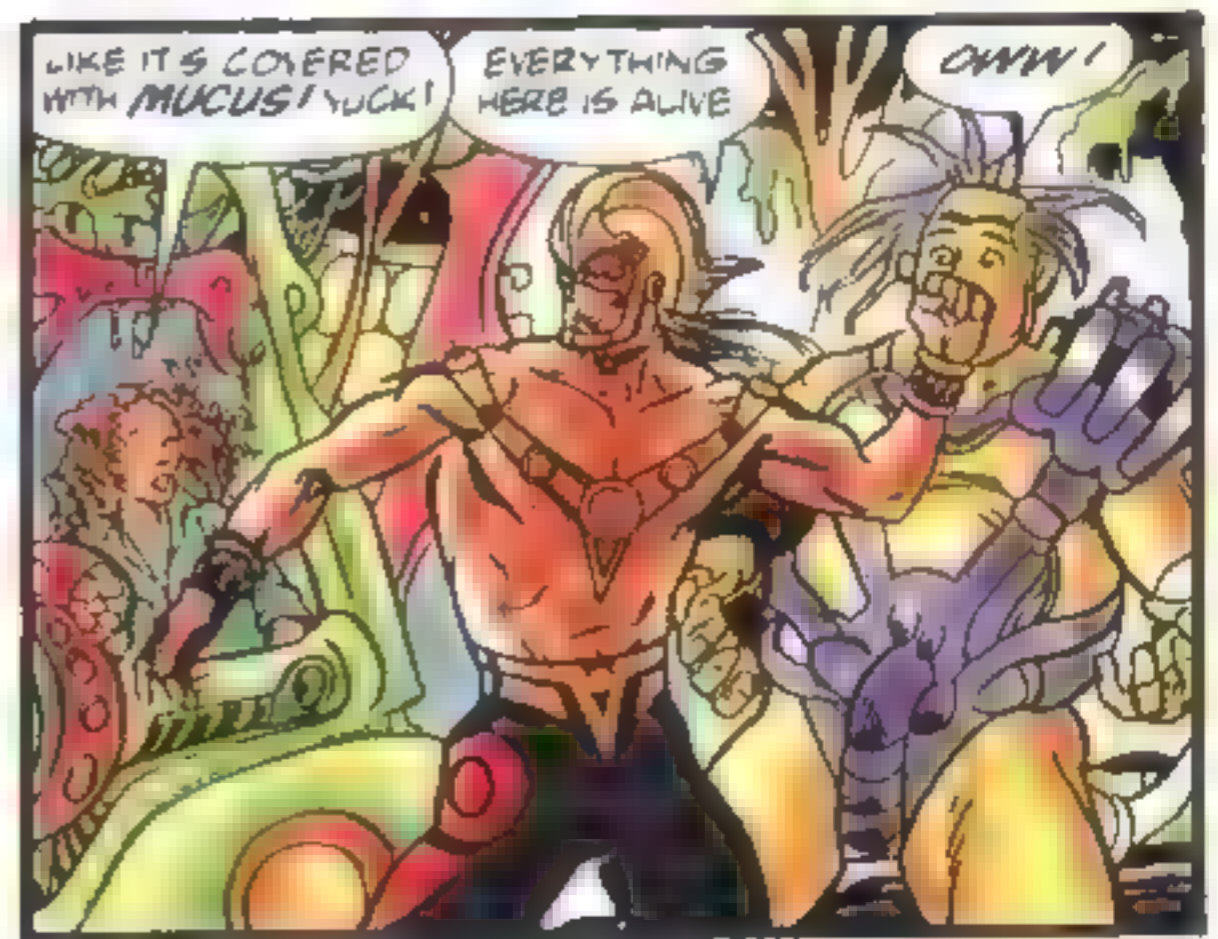
FIRST  
I MUST  
DEAL  
WITH THE  
MATTER  
AT HAND

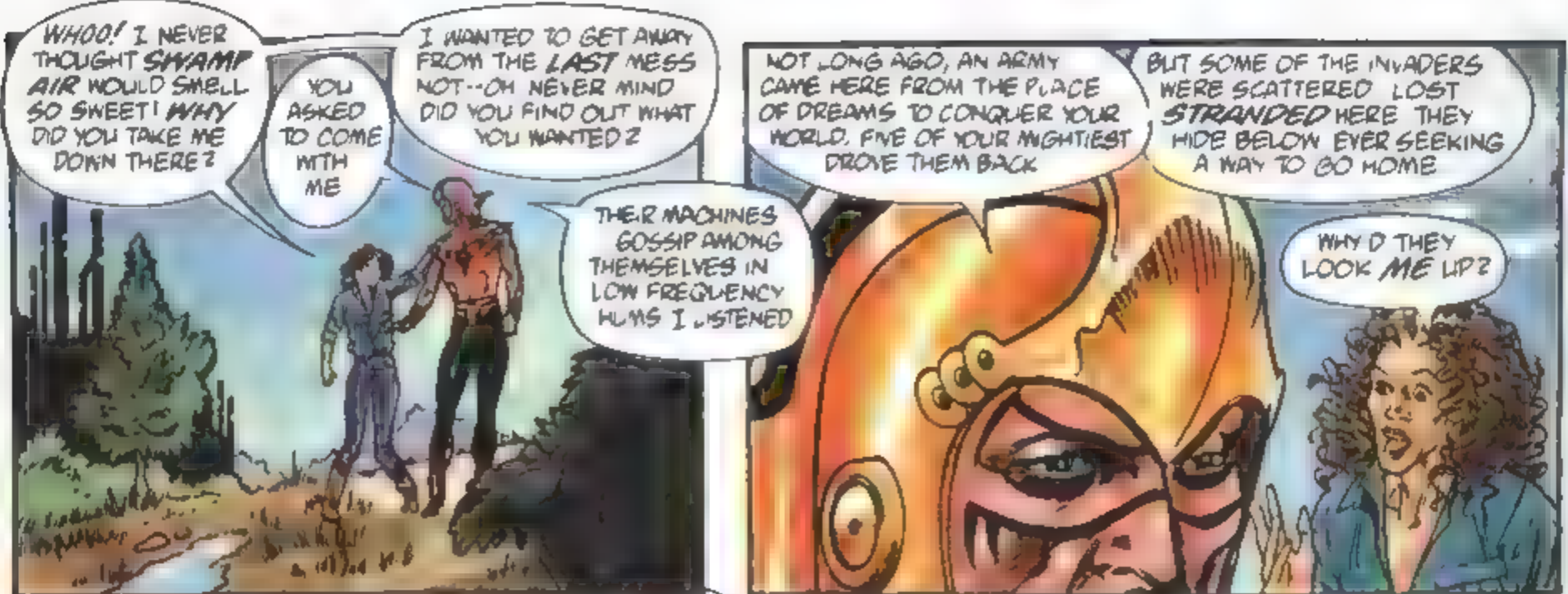


WHAT? THOSE  
WEIRDOS  
WHO ATTACKED  
US? ARE  
THEY FROM  
JERSEY?

THEY ARE FROM THE WORLD THAT ONCE  
KNEW THE GLORY OF QUEXZALKWA.  
THEY ARE FROM THE PLACE OF  
DREAMS THEY DO NOT  
BELONG HERE.

THEIR NEST IS  
BELOW COME





WHOO! I NEVER THOUGHT SWAMP AIR WOULD SMELL SO SWEET! WHY DID YOU TAKE ME DOWN THERE?

YOU ASKED TO COME WITH ME

I WANTED TO GET AWAY FROM THE LAST MESS NOT--OH NEVER MIND DID YOU FIND OUT WHAT YOU WANTED?

THEIR MACHINES GOSSIP AMONG THEMSELVES IN LOW FREQUENCY HUMS I LISTENED

NOT LONG AGO, AN ARMY CAME HERE FROM THE PLACE OF DREAMS TO CONQUER YOUR WORLD. FIVE OF YOUR MIGHTIEST DROVE THEM BACK

BUT SOME OF THE INVADERS WERE SCATTERED LOST STRANDED HERE THEY HIDE BELOW EVER SEEKING A WAY TO GO HOME

WHY'D THEY LOOK ME UP?

THEY, TOO, HEARD THE VOICE OF ZAHNRHEE

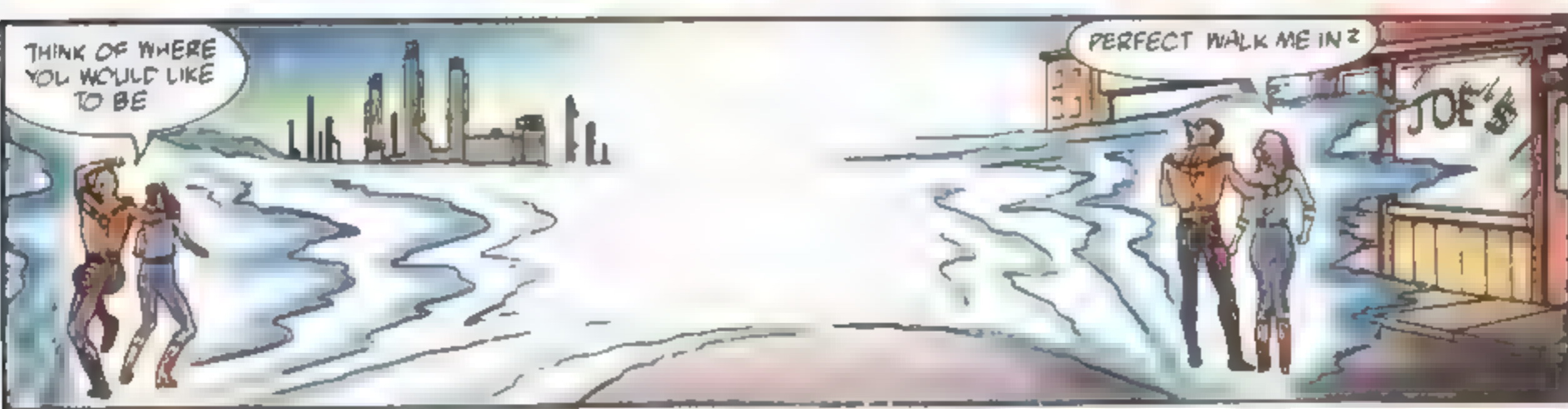
OH AND SINCE SHE'S FROM THE SAME ZIP CODE AS THEY ARE YEAH MAKES SENSE

WELL - NO PROBLEM YOU CAN JUST DANCE EVERYBODY BACK WHERE THEY BELONG RIGHT?

NO SOMETHING DARK AND HORRIBLE HAS HAPPENED TO THE PLACE OF DREAMS AND IF DREAMS WALK THE EARTH, THERE IS GREAT DANGER TO ALL EXISTENCE!

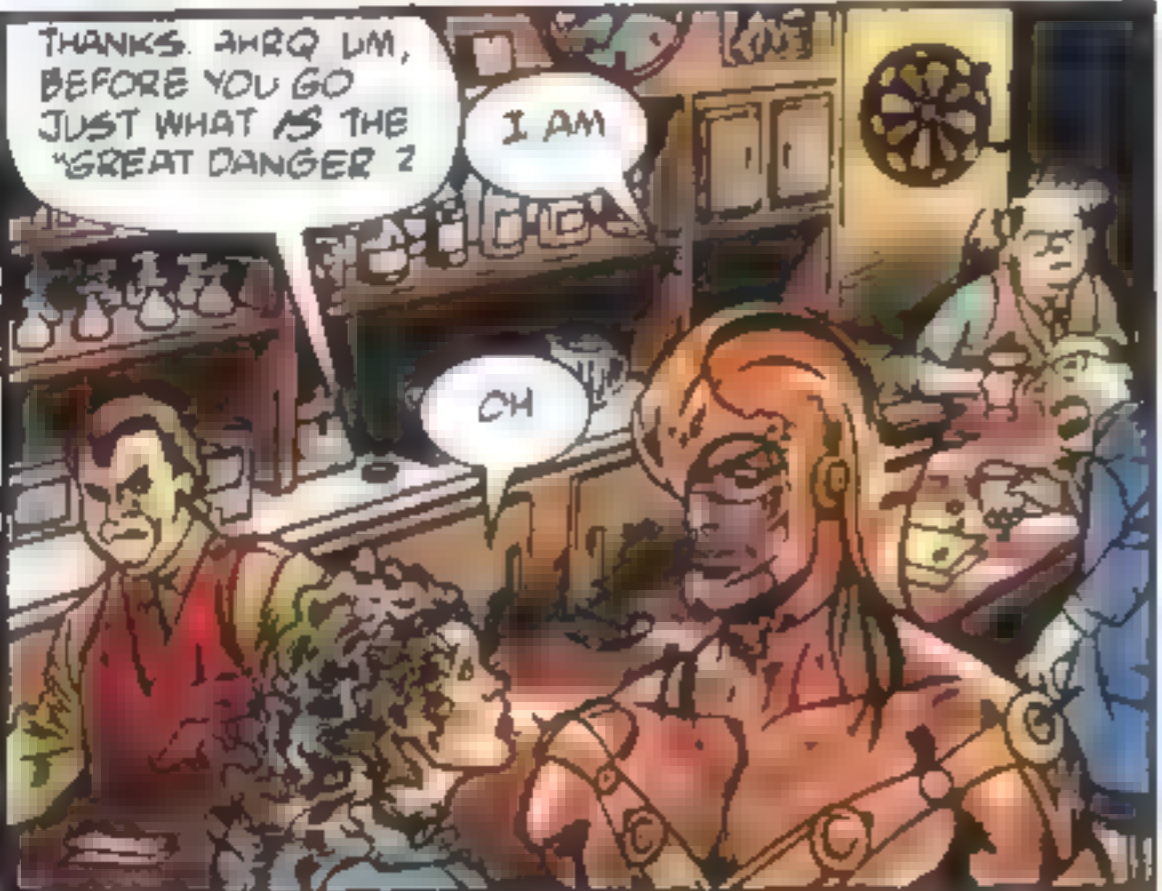
I MUST EXAMINE THIS PLANET LEARN THE EXTENT OF THE DAMAGE. COME

UH NO...NO, THANKS COULD YOU JUST DROP ME OFF SOMEPLACE?



THINK OF WHERE YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE

PERFECT WALK ME IN?



THANKS. AHQ UM, BEFORE YOU GO JUST WHAT IS THE "GREAT DANGER"?

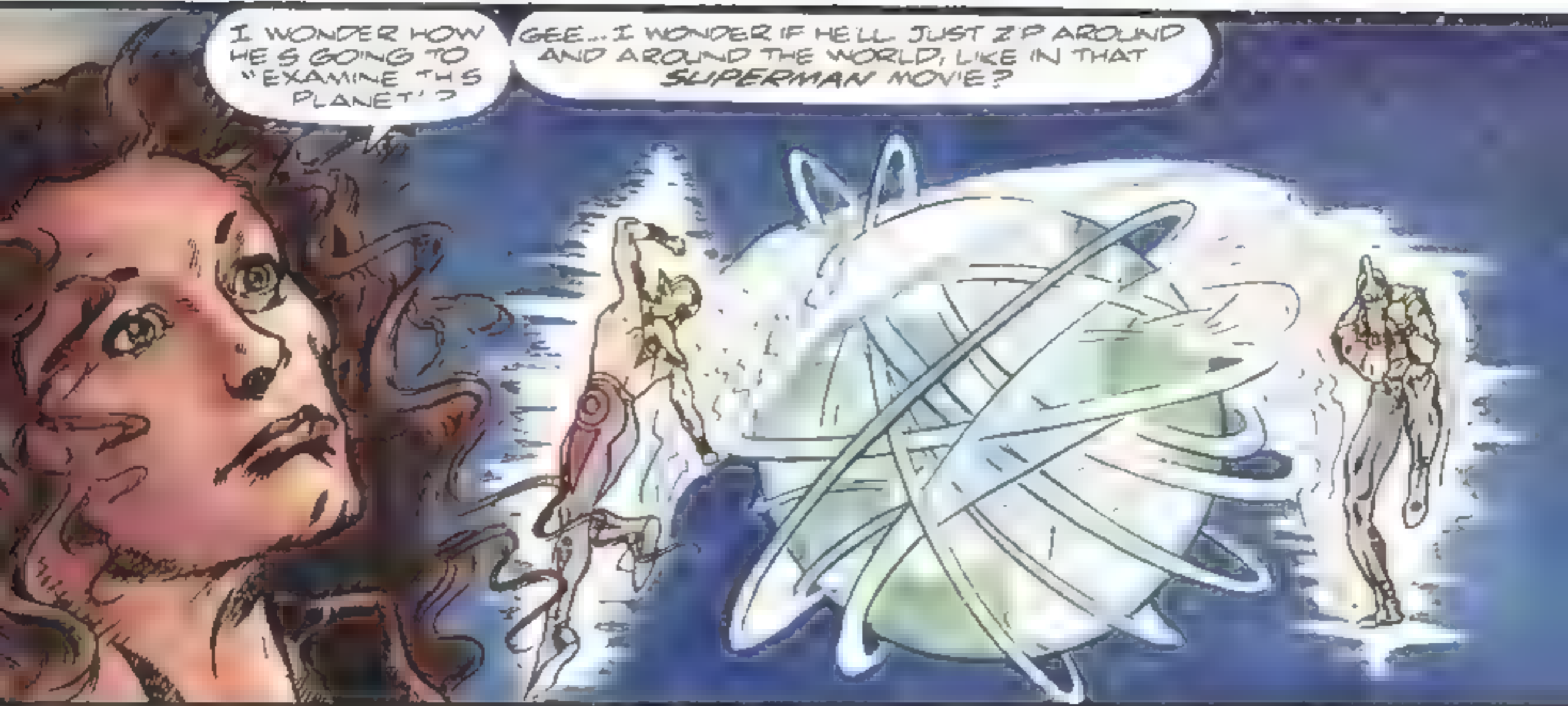
I AM

OH



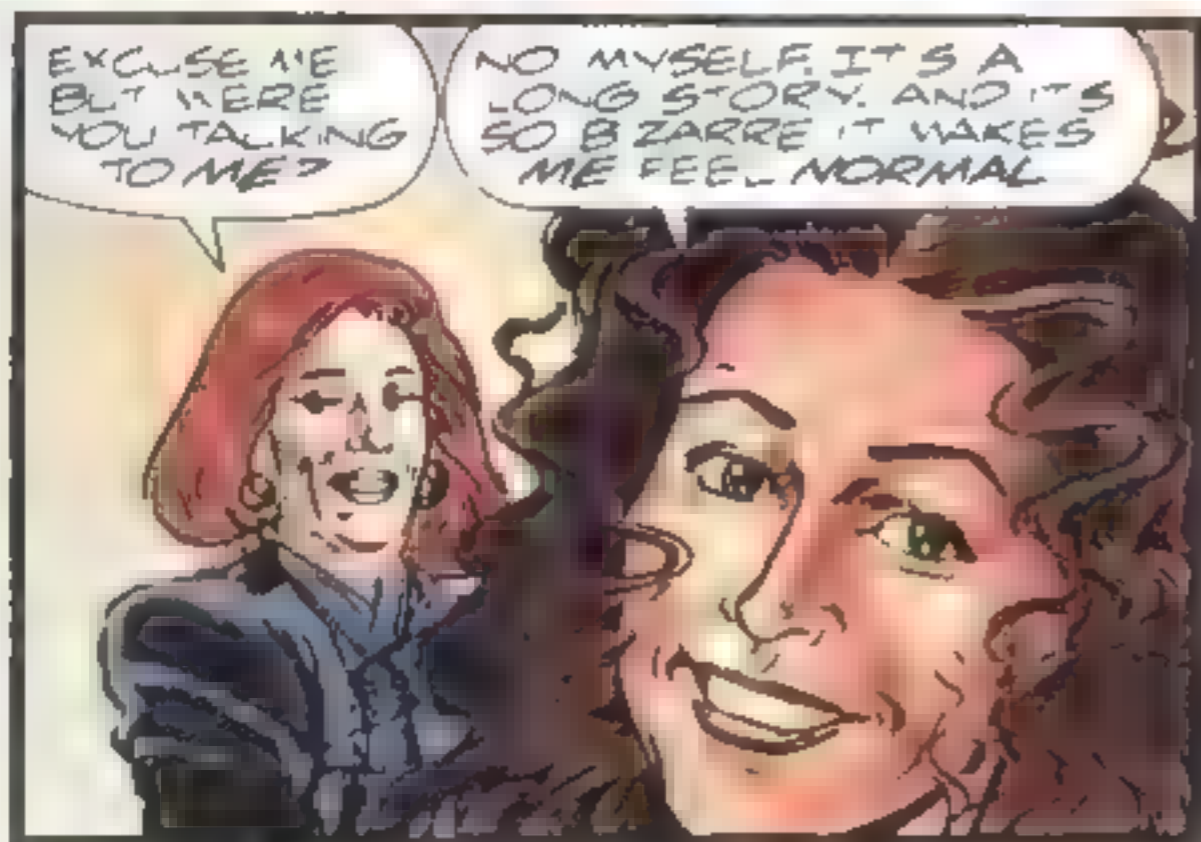
WHO'S THE GUY IN THE HELMET?

HM? JUST A GODLIKE BEING FROM ANOTHER WORLD FRIEND OF MINE NICE BUNS, HUH?



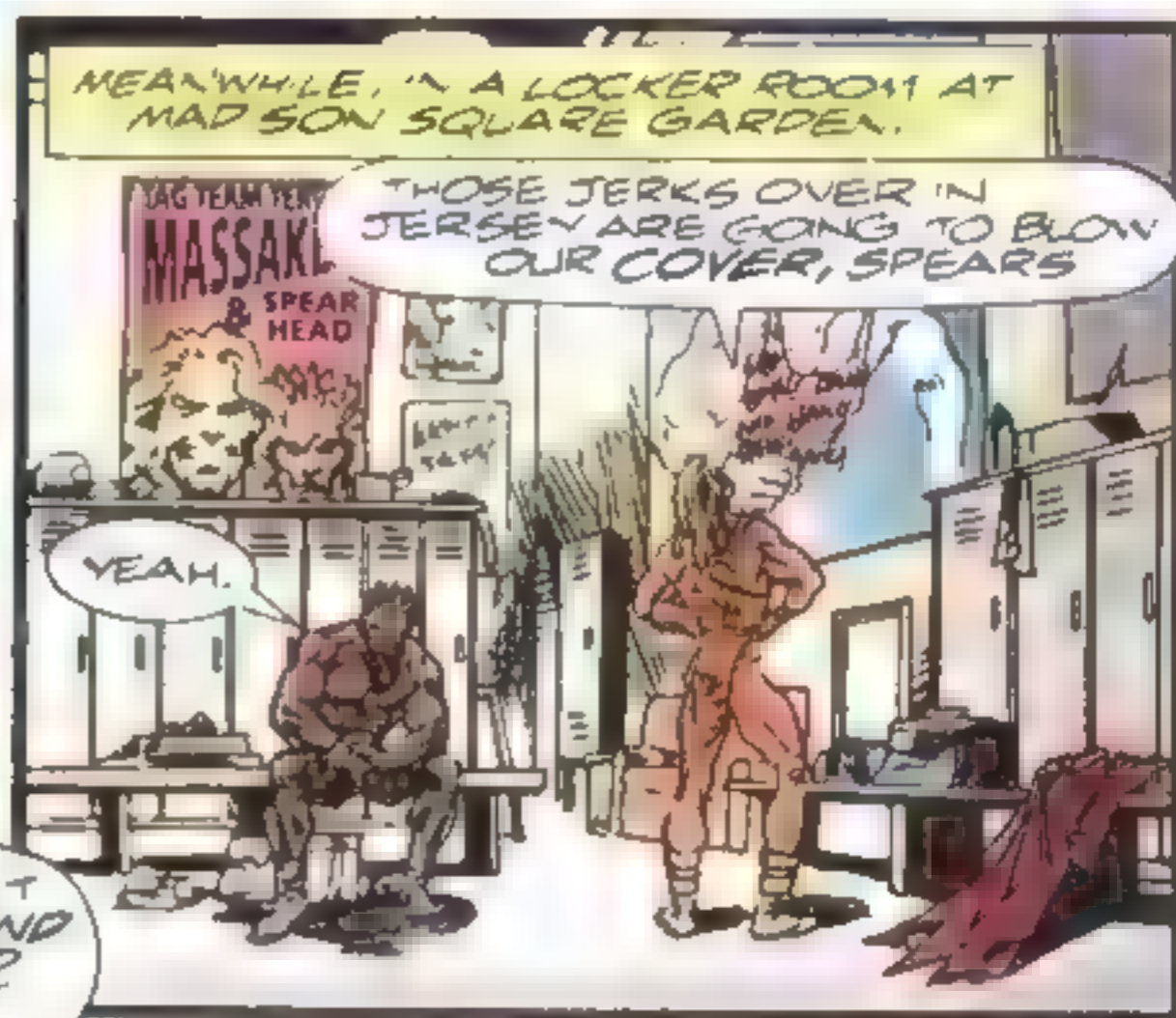
I WONDER HOW HE'S GOING TO "EXAMINE THIS PLANET"?

GEE... I WONDER IF HE'LL JUST ZIP AROUND AND AROUND THE WORLD, LIKE IN THAT SUPERMAN MOVIE?



EXCUSE ME BUT WERE YOU TALKING TO ME?

NO MYSELF. IT'S A LONG STORY. AND IT'S SO BIZARRE IT MAKES ME FEEL NORMAL



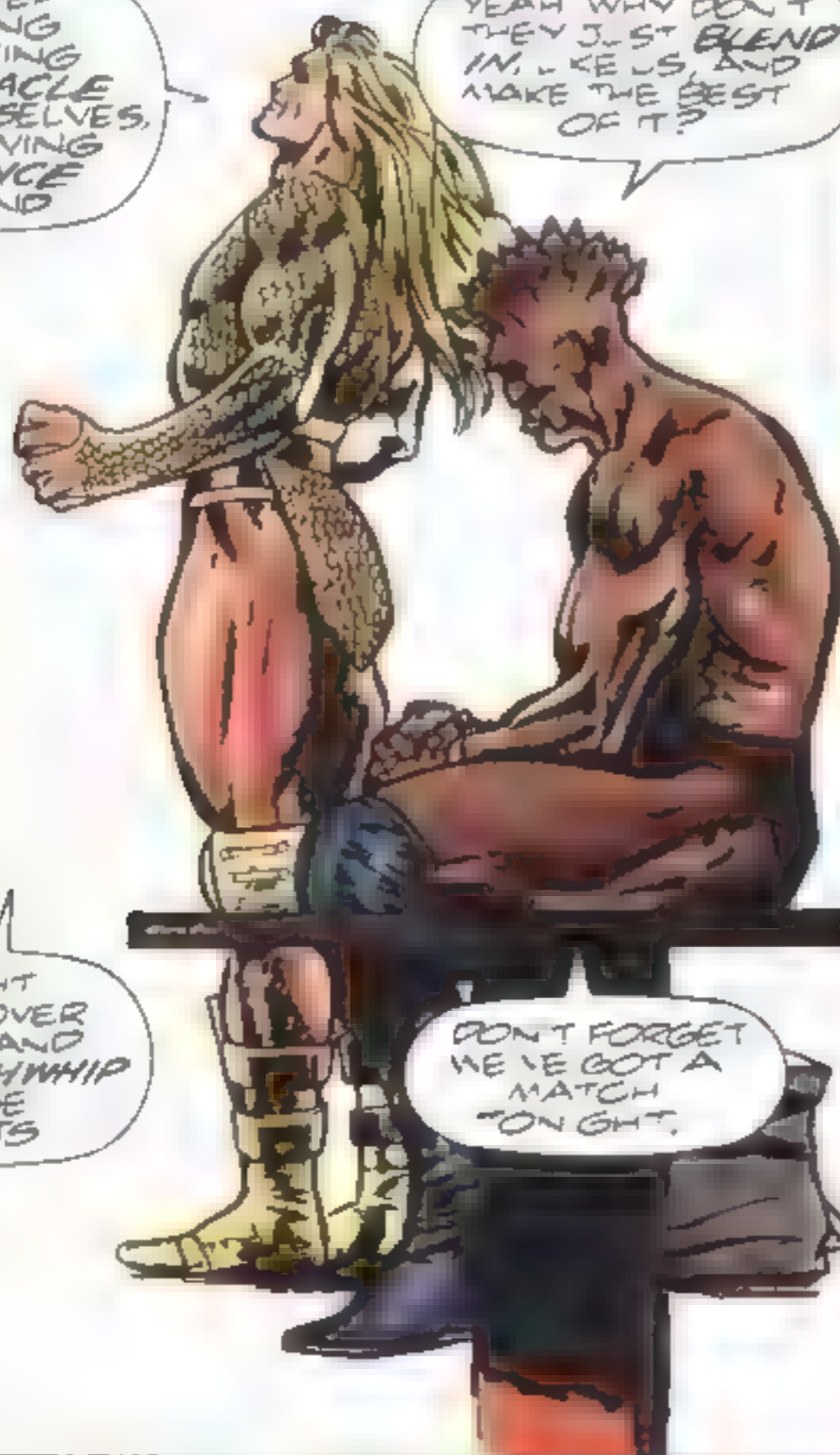
MEANWHILE, IN A LOCKER ROOM AT MAD SON SQUARE GARDEN.

THOSE JERKS OVER IN JERSEY ARE GOING TO BLOW OUR COVER, SPEARS

YEAH.

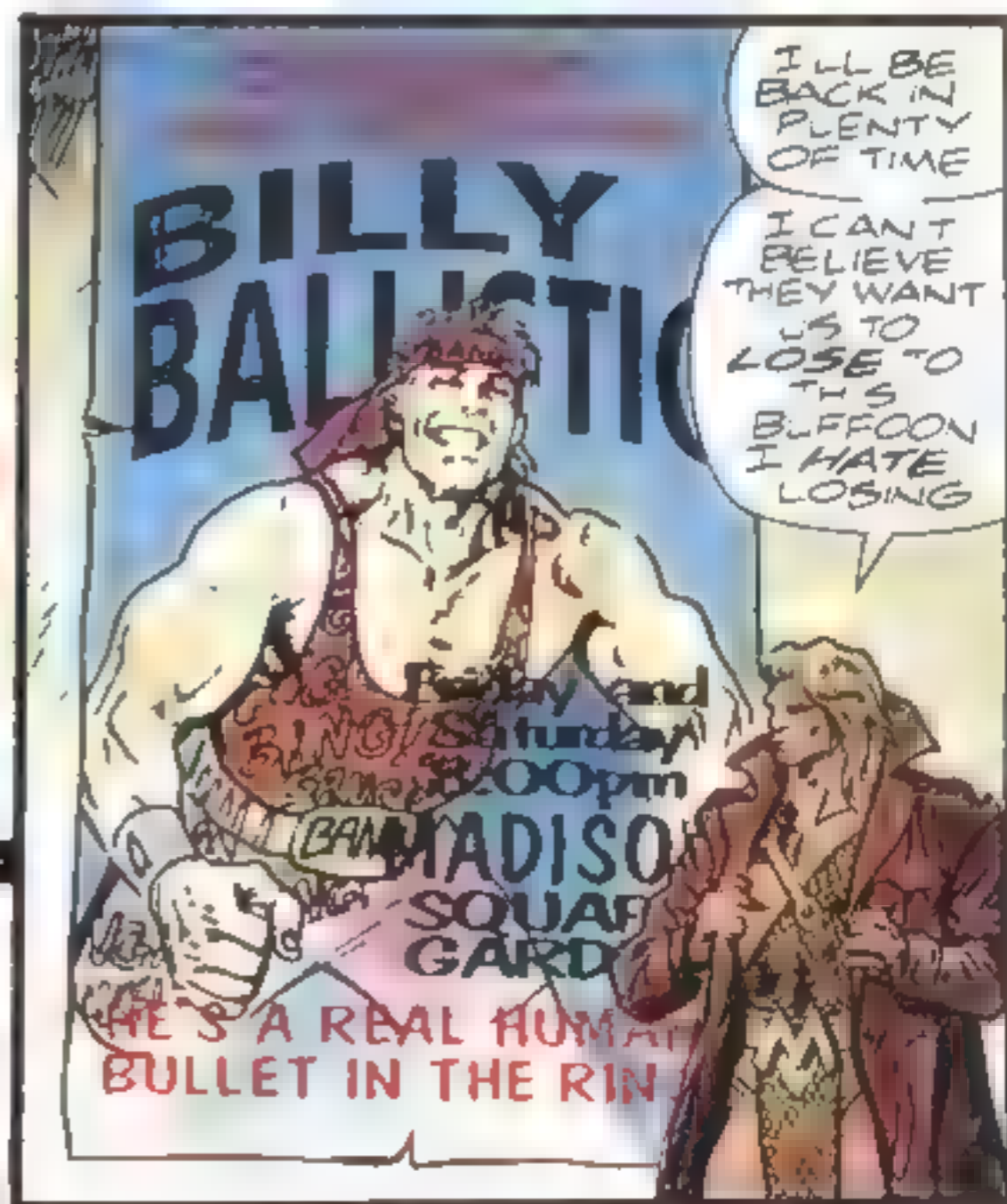
THEY KEEP SCREWING UP, MAKING A SPECTACLE OF THEMSELVES, AND LEAVING EVIDENCE AROUND

YEAH WHY DON'T THEY JUST BLEND IN, LIKE US AND MAKE THE BEST OF IT?



I OUGHT TO GO OVER THERE AND THRASH WHIP THOSE IDIOTS

DON'T FORGET WE'VE GOT A MATCH TONIGHT.



I'LL BE BACK IN PLENTY OF TIME

I CAN'T BELIEVE THEY WANT US TO LOSE TO THIS BLFFOON I HATE LOSING

**BILLY BALLISTIC**

Friday and Saturday  
8:00pm  
BAM MADISON SQUARE GARDEN

HE'S A REAL HUMAN BULLET IN THE RING

LATER...

HMP. STILL NO TRACE OF HIM. IT'S AS IF THE INTRUDER VANISHED.

ASK THE HIDEAWAY TO KEEP ITS SENSES ALERT. IF HE COMES BACK, I WANT SOME WARNING!

SEAL THE CARAPACE!

HOY, WHO'S THAT?

HALT! HOW DID YOU GET IN HERE?

I KNOW THE WAY.

CENTURION MASSAC? WE THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD!

HARDLY SPEEDRAY AND I DECIDED TO GO NATIVE.

BETTER THAN YOU CAN IMAGINE, BLEUS.

NICE JOB OF GENETIC REENGINEERING, MASSAC.

NOW LISTEN... I SAW A REPORT ON CNN ABOUT A HOUSE IN COLORADO THAT WAS MYSTERIOUSLY TRASHED.

EVEN ON THE CRUDE TV SYSTEM THEY HAVE HERE I COULD TELL IT WAS THE WORK OF YOUR TROOPS.

NO ONE BELIEVES THAT "REPEATED LIGHTNING STRIKES" NONSENSE. THERE'S BOUND TO BE AN INVESTIGATION.

IDIOTS! THERE'S NO WAY HOME UNLESS SOMEONE COMES TO GET US... AND IF THEY WERE COMING, THEY'D HAVE BEEN HERE BY NOW.

IF YOU WANT TO LAY LOW QUIETLY AND WAIT, FINE.

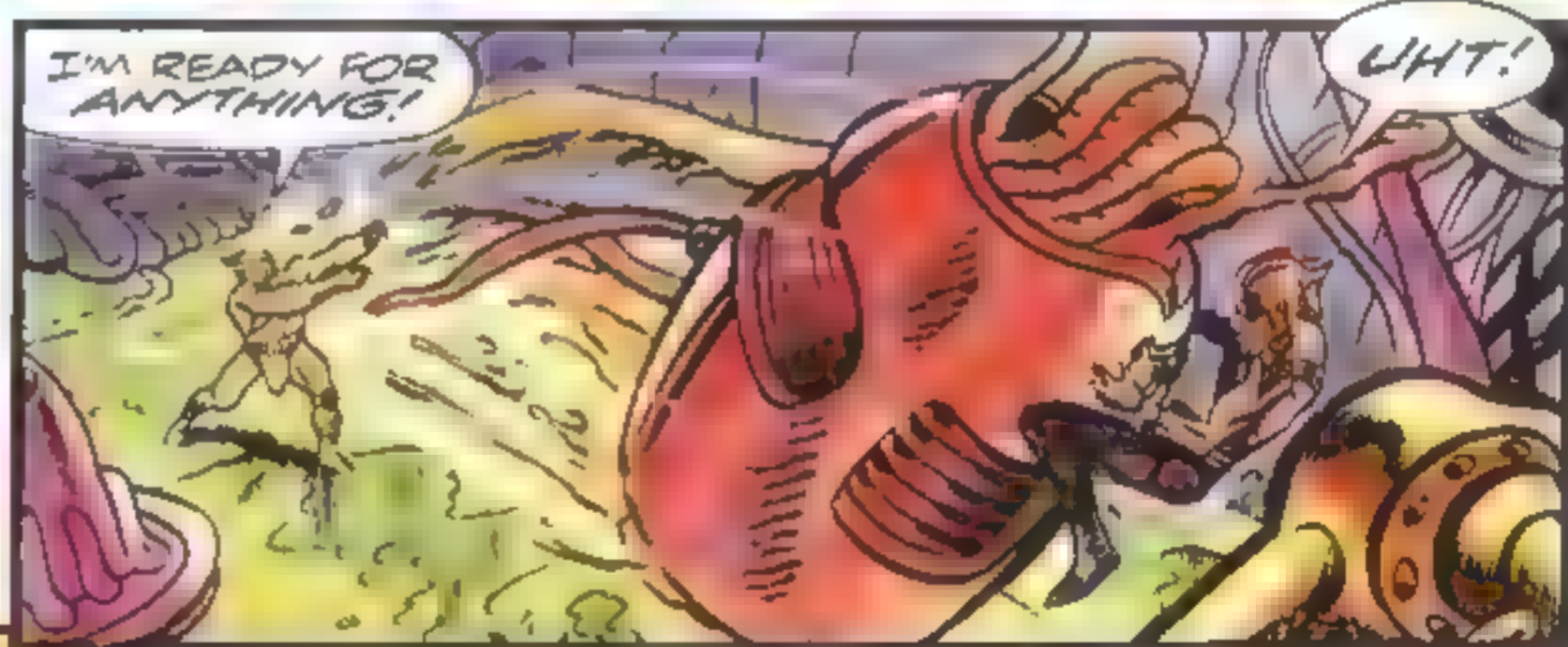
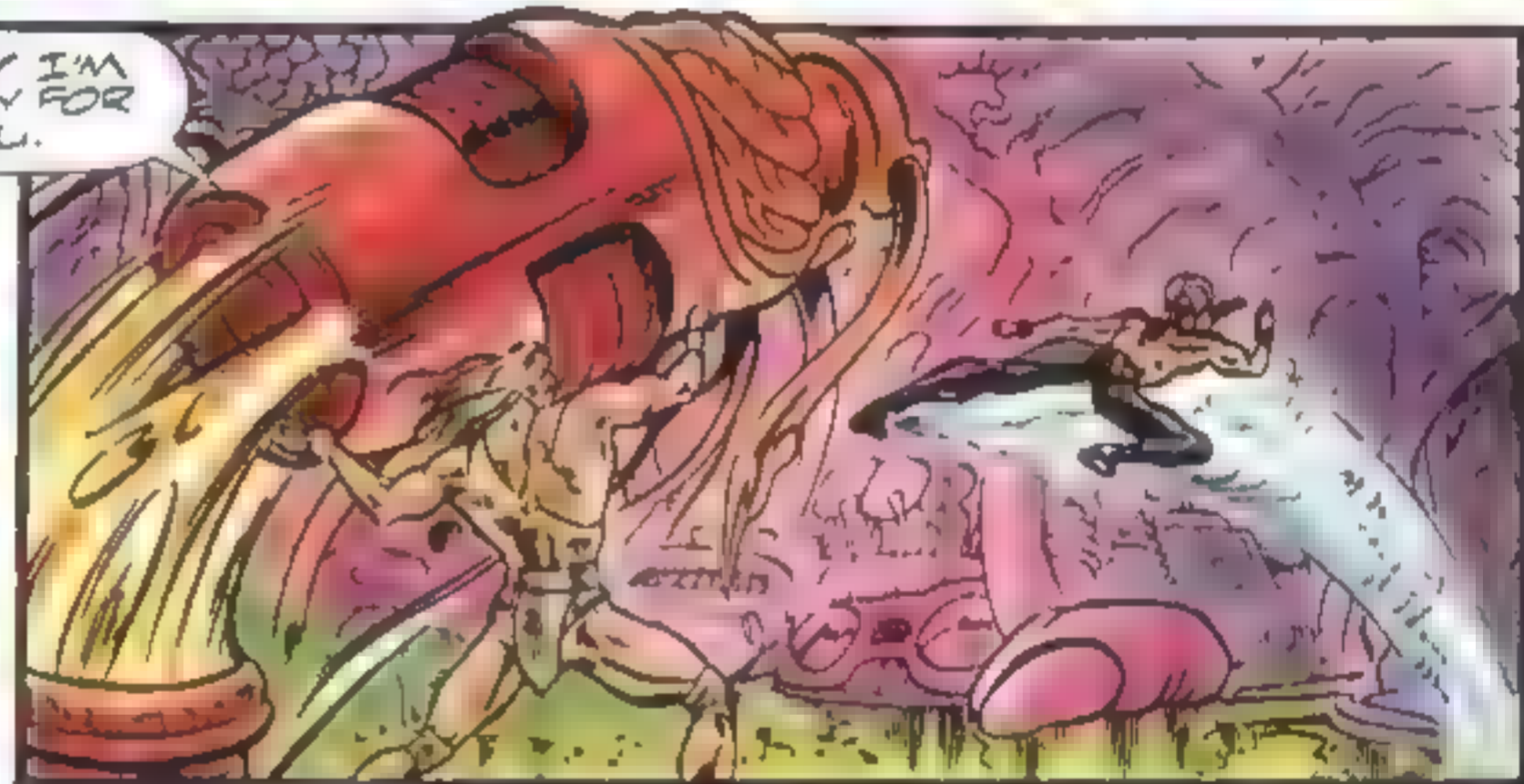
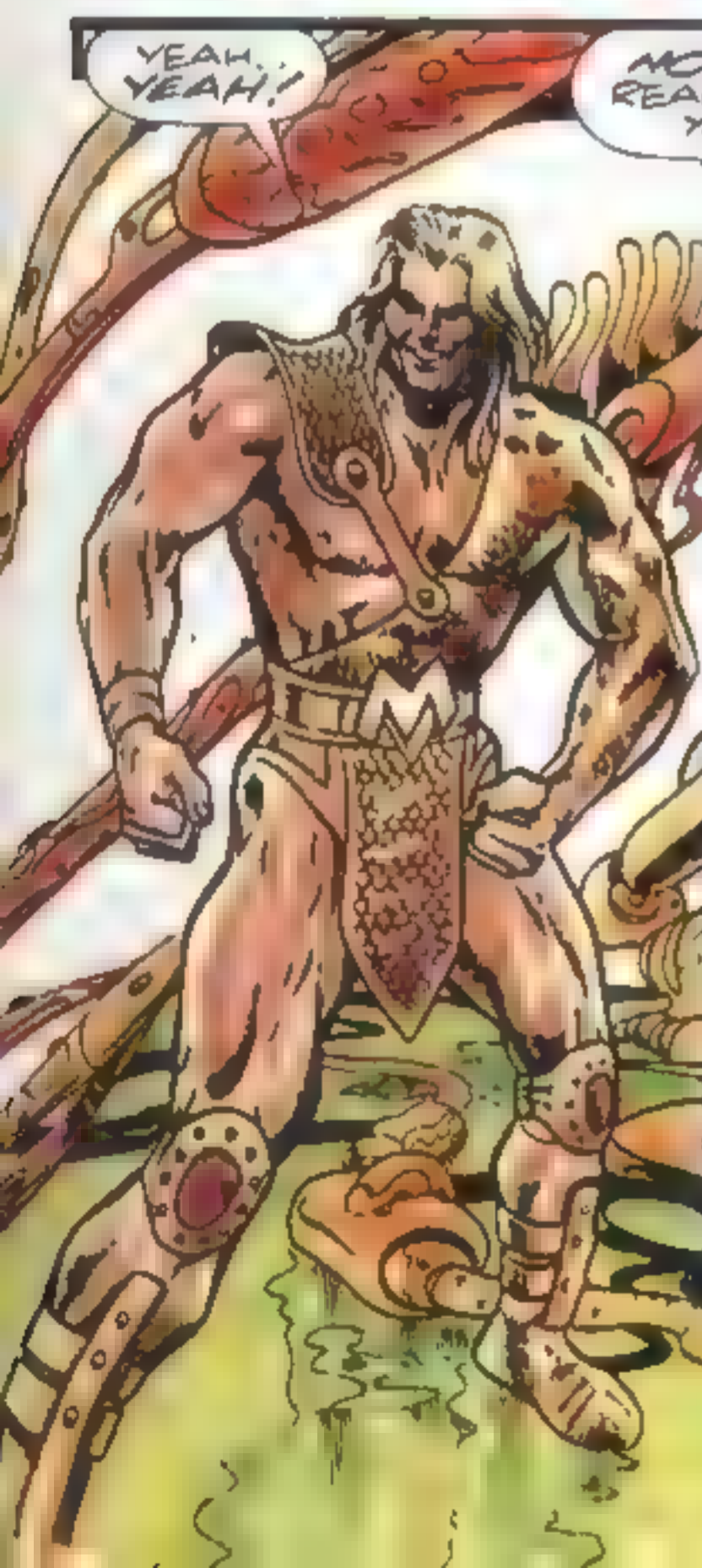
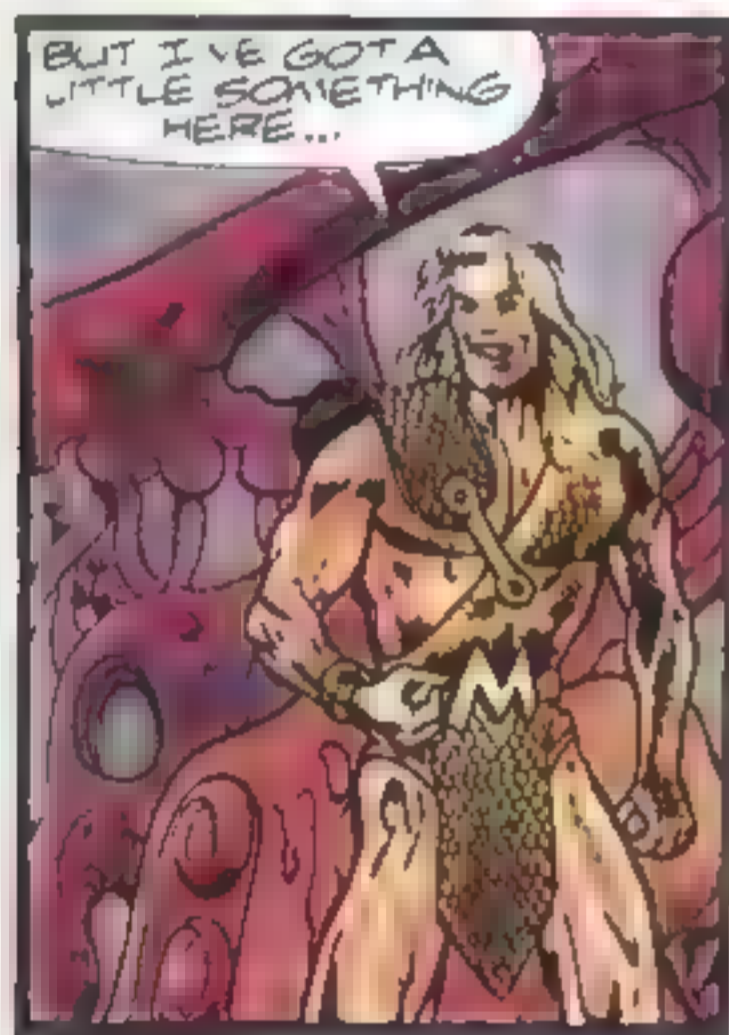
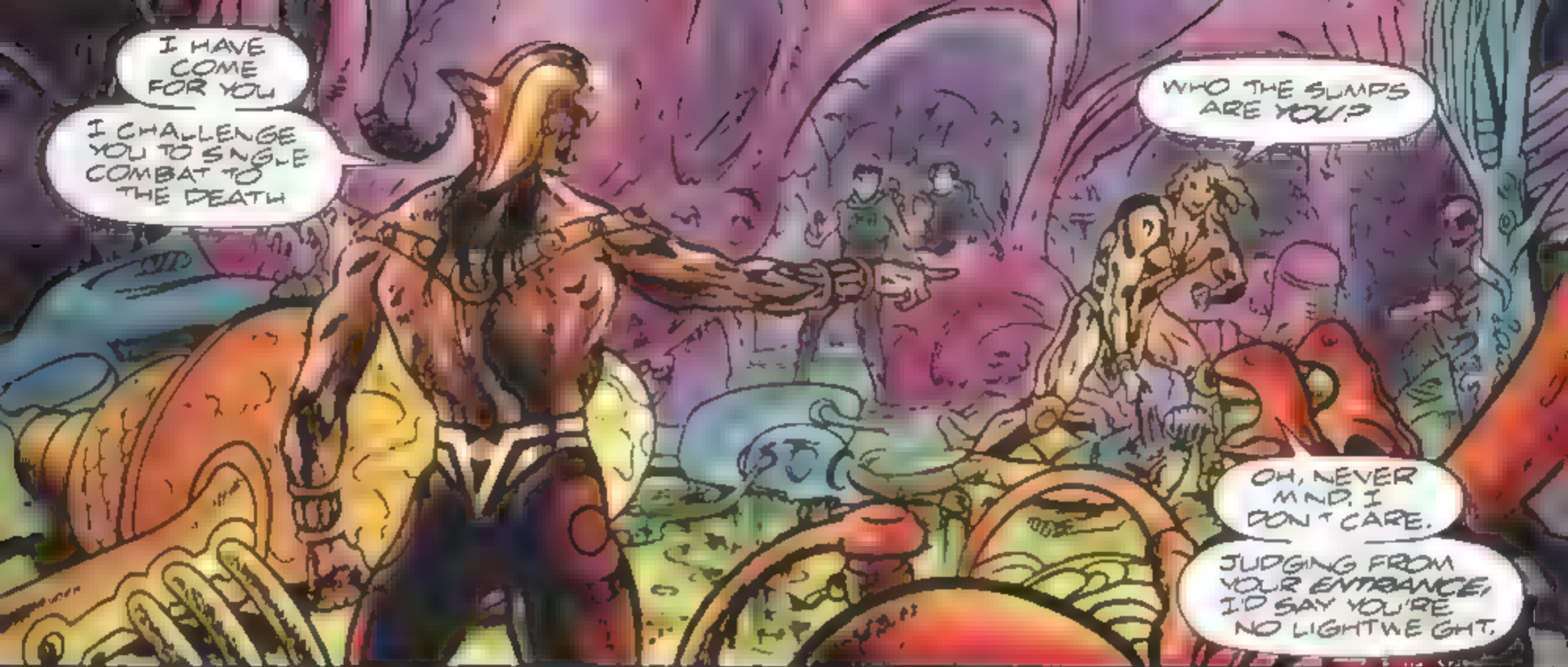
WE WERE JUST SEARCHING FOR A WAY HOME, MASSAC. YOU SHOULD BE HELPING US.

AGGH!

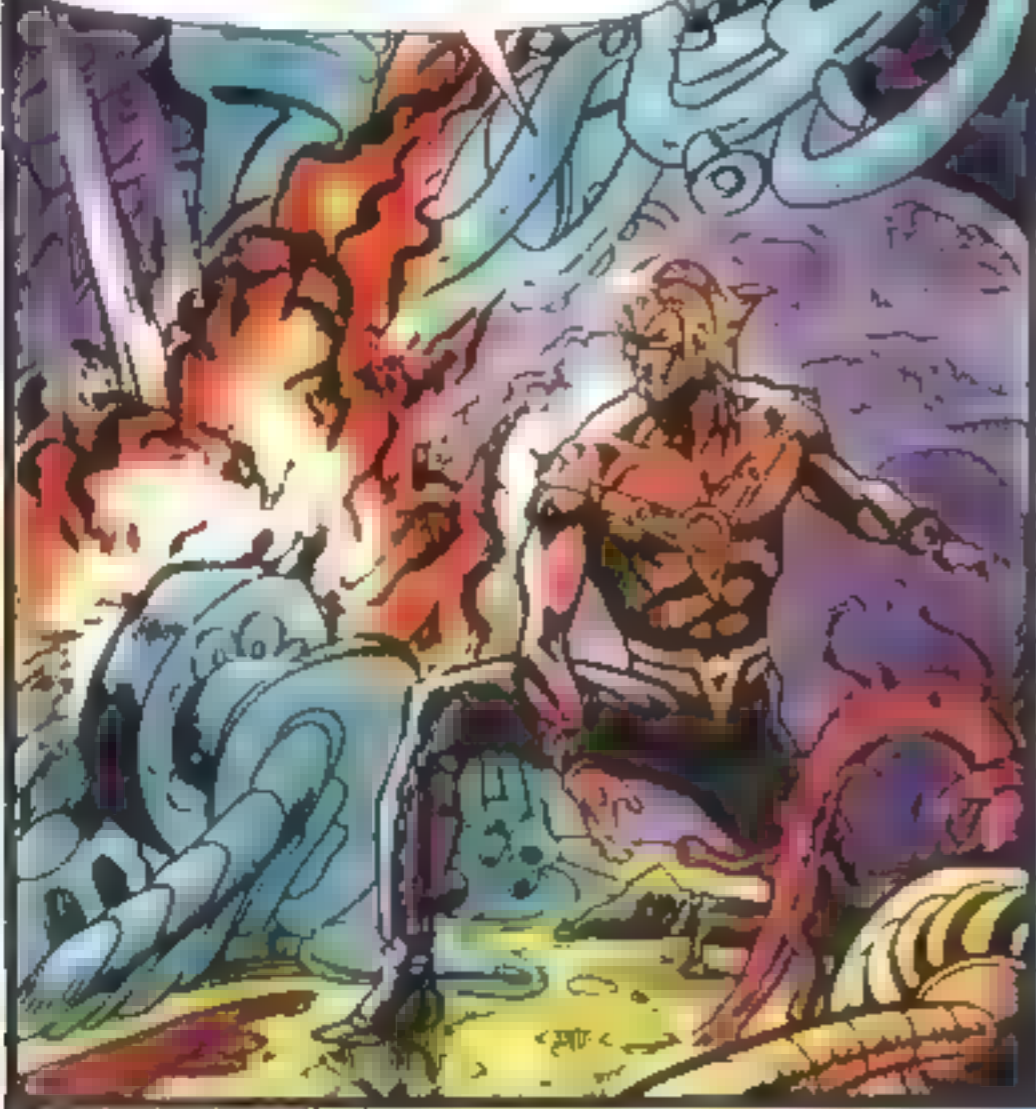
WHULL!

STRIP UP A WITCH-HUNT AND I'LL TWISTRIPE YOU ALL!

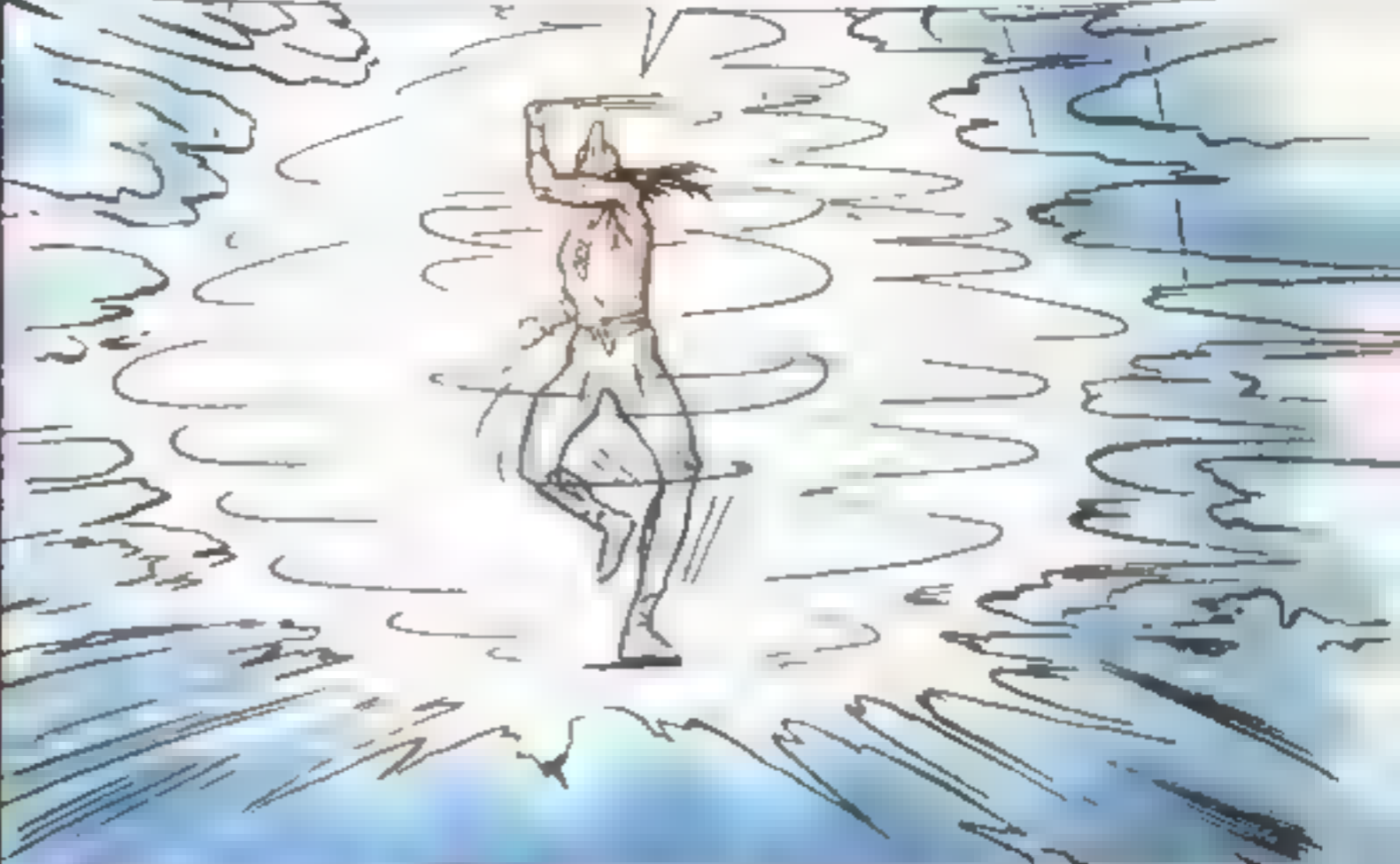
ORG'S PHLEGM!



AH! I UNDERSTAND  
I WAS A SCIENTIST  
BEFORE I WAS BECOME  
A GOD.



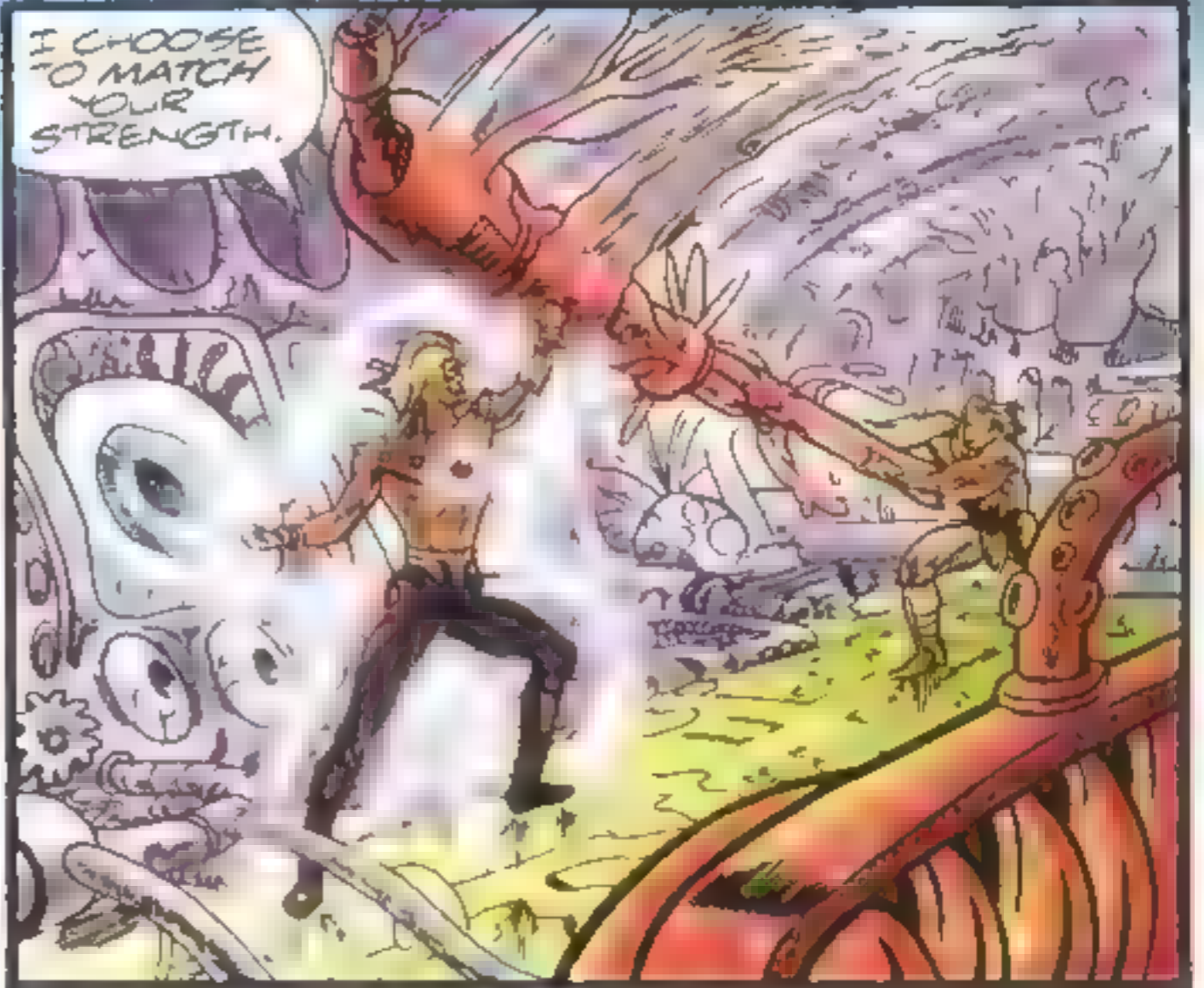
YOUR ID-REAGENTS AROUSE THE SUBCONSCIOUS  
TO MAGNIFY THE STRENGTH OF YOUR FLESH... AND  
SO YOU ARE POWERFUL.



BUT I AM  
WHAT I  
CHOOSE  
TO BE.



I CHOOSE  
TO MATCH  
YOUR  
STRENGTH.



CAN YOU MATCH MY HEART AND WILL?  
I WAS A WARRIOR  
ONCE, AS WELL



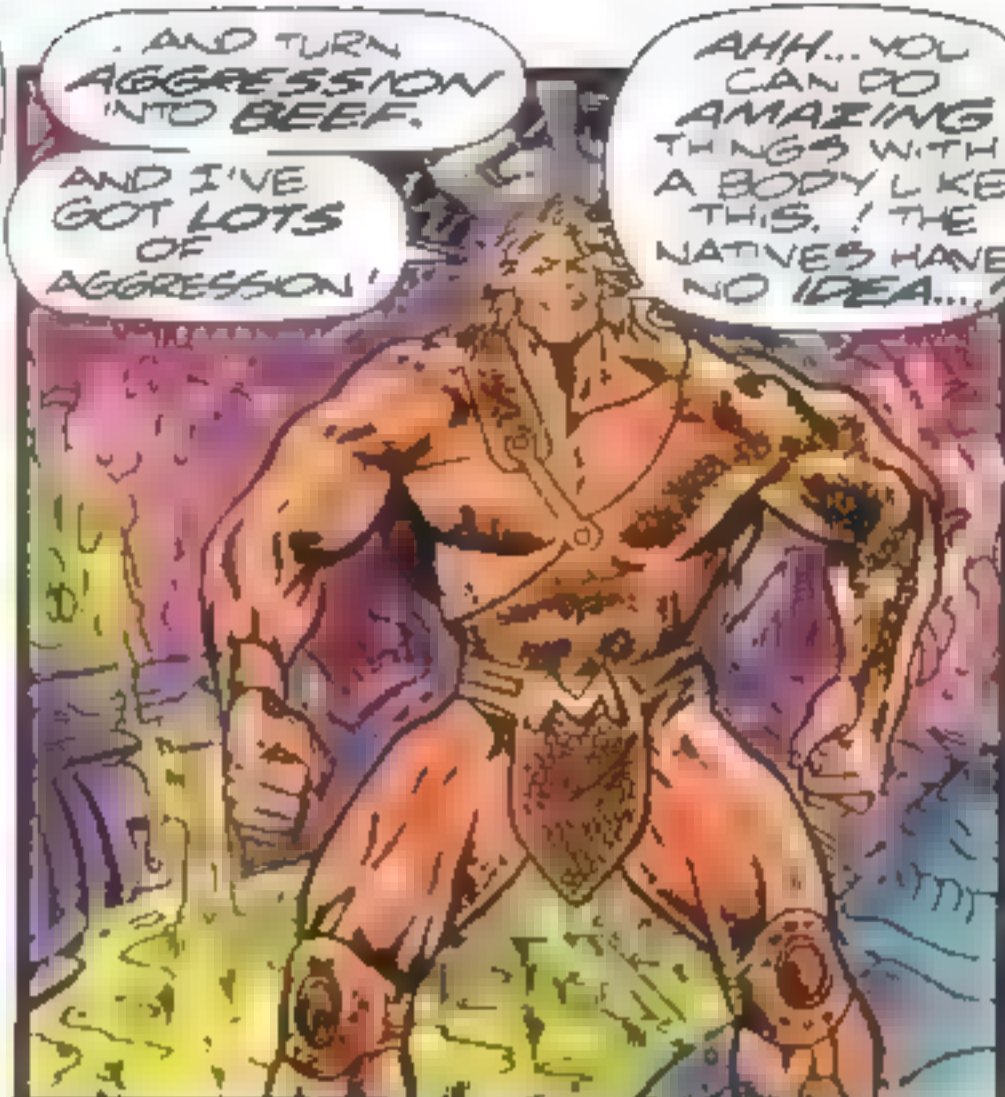


YOU MUST BE ONE OF US... REENGINEERED TO LOOK NATIVE. YOU CAN'T BE A NATIVE. NATIVES HERE CAN'T DO ANYTHING.



BUT THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT THIS GENETIC CONFIGURATION THAT OPENS THE DOOR TO POWER. ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS... LET IT OUT!

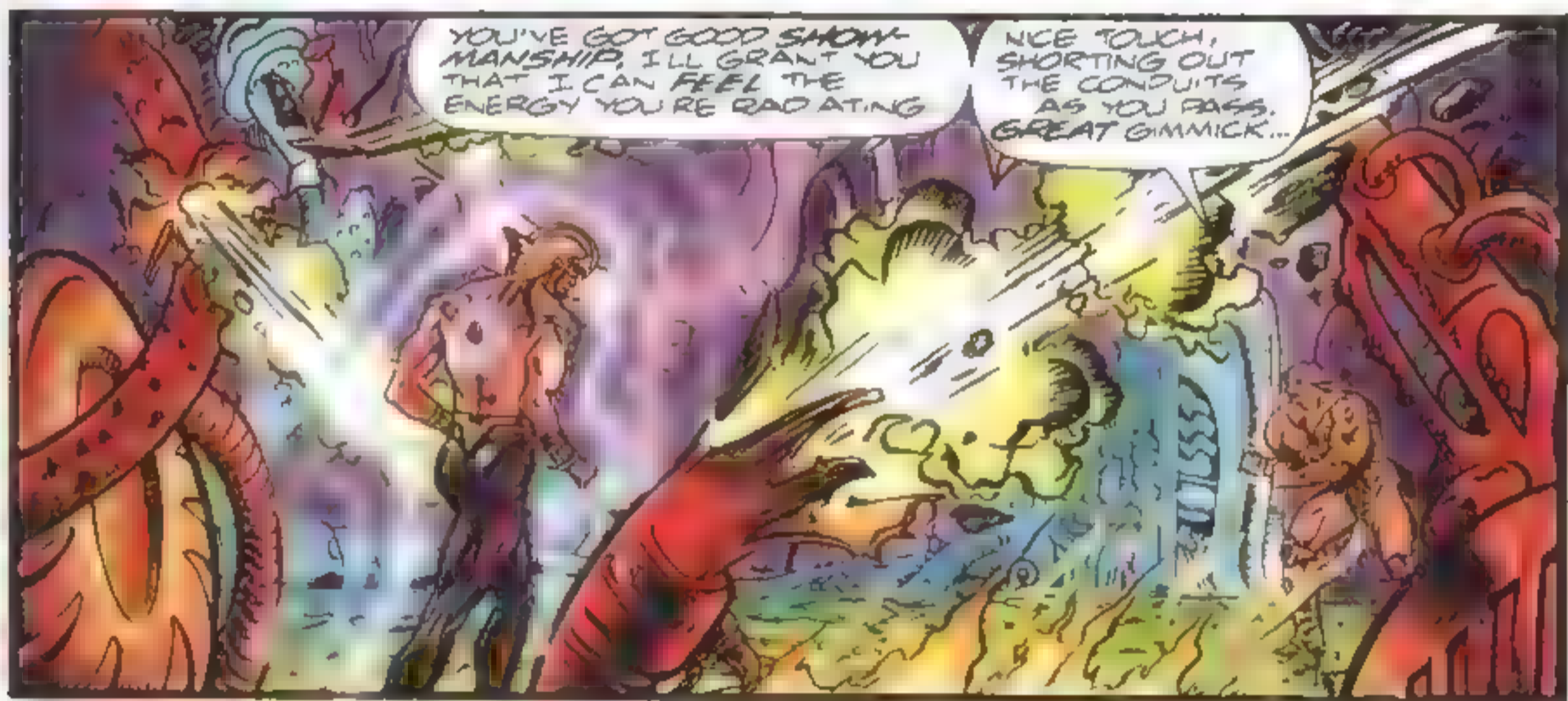
IT'S LIKE YOU SAID, I JUST JUICE UP ON PSYCHO-STEROIDS...



AND TURN AGGRESSION INTO BEEF.

AND I'VE GOT LOTS OF AGGRESSION!

AHH... YOU CAN DO AMAZING THINGS WITH A BODY LIKE THIS. THE NATIVES HAVE NO IDEA...

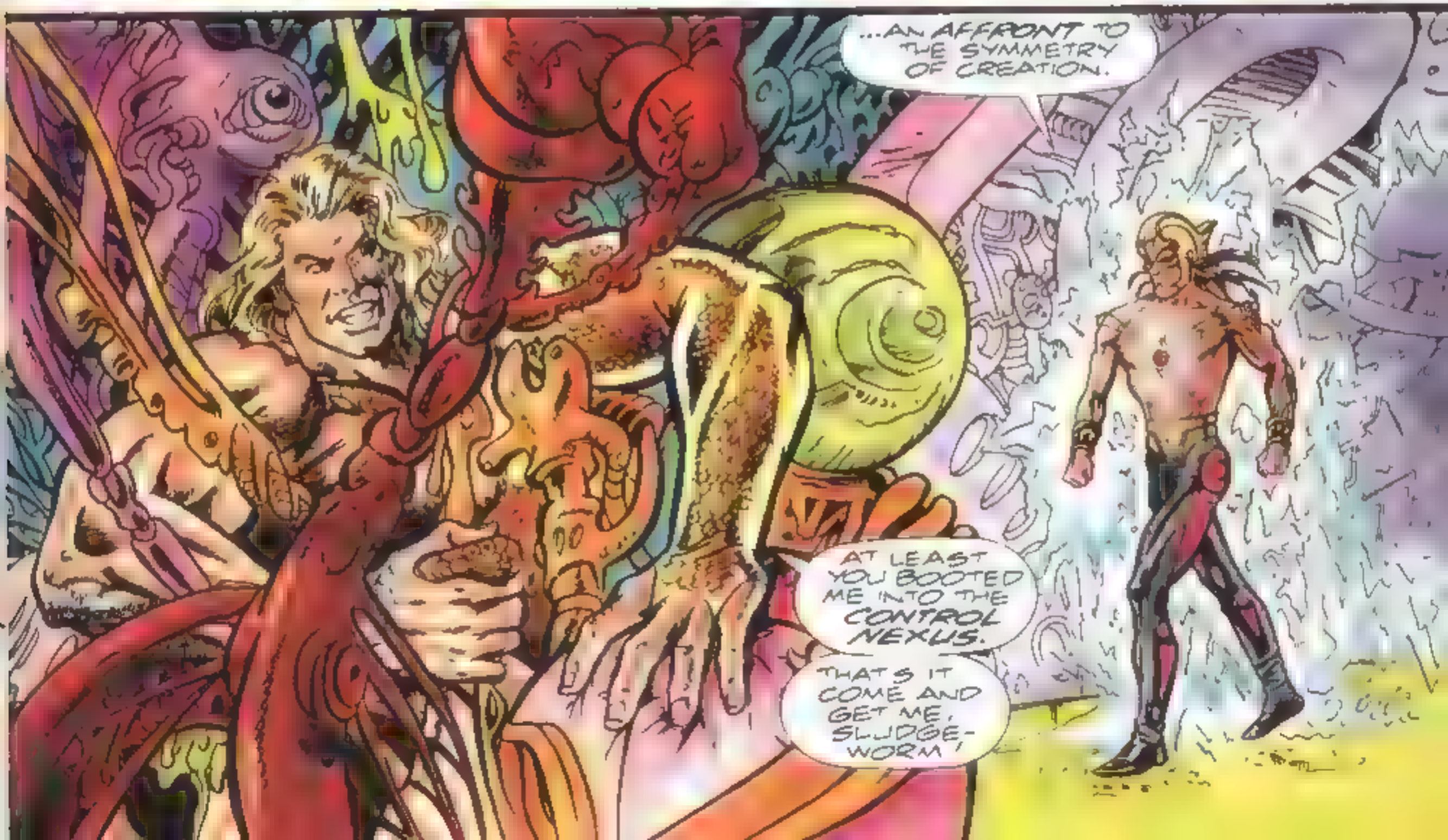
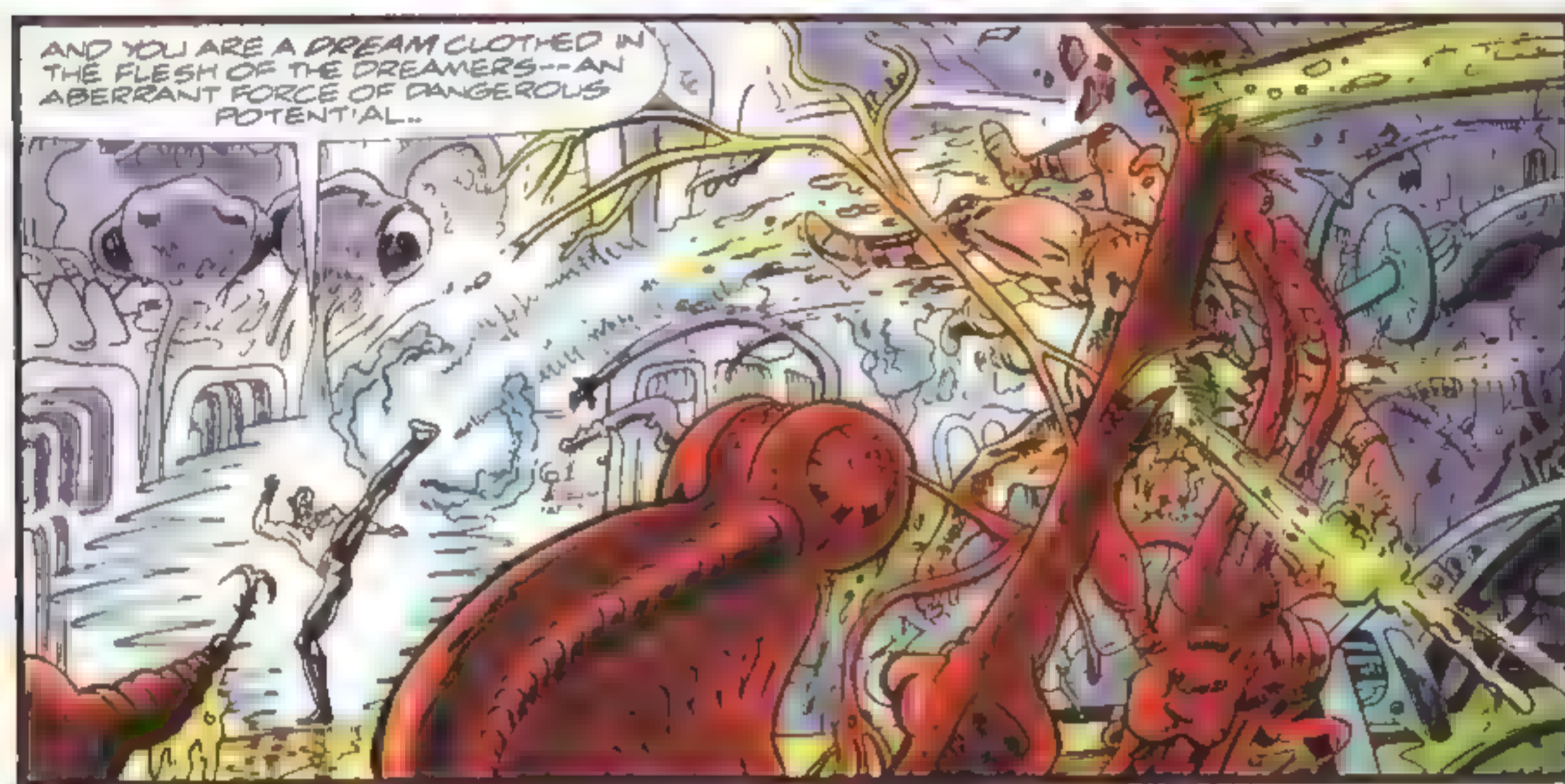
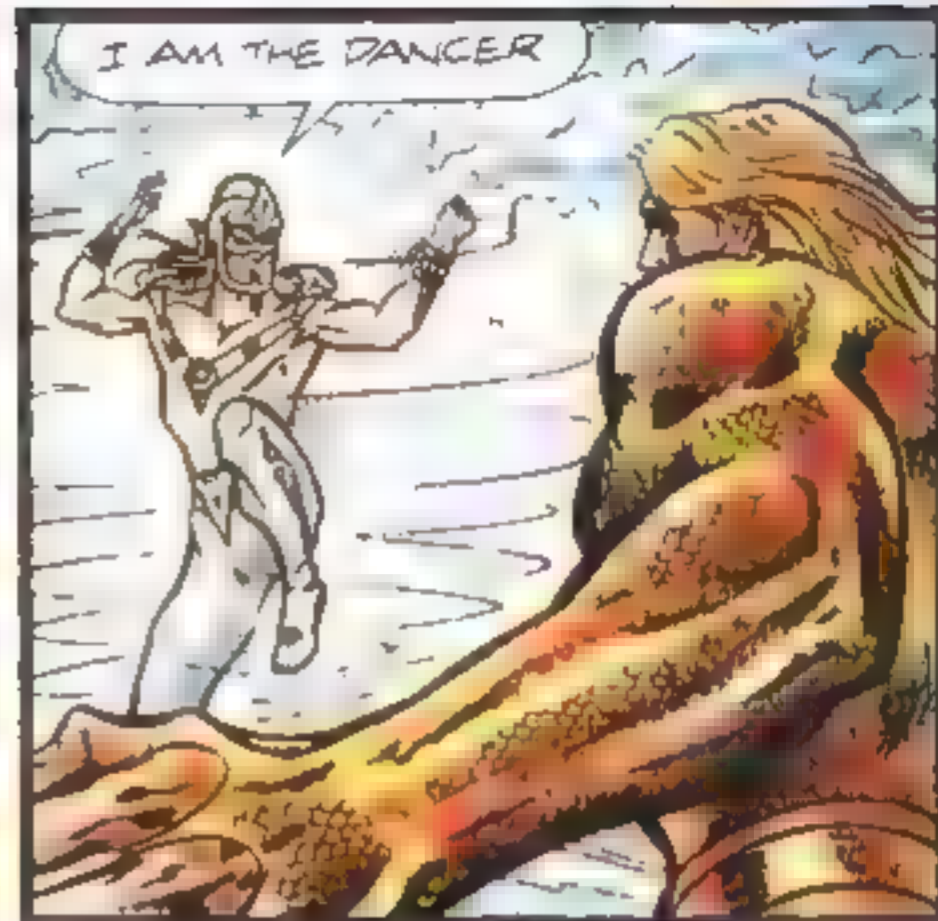
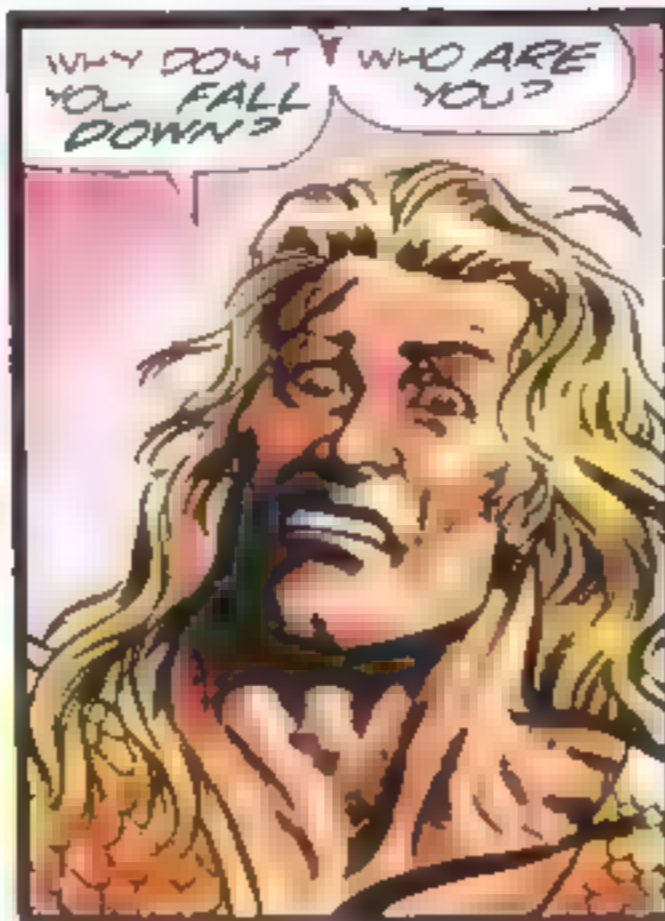
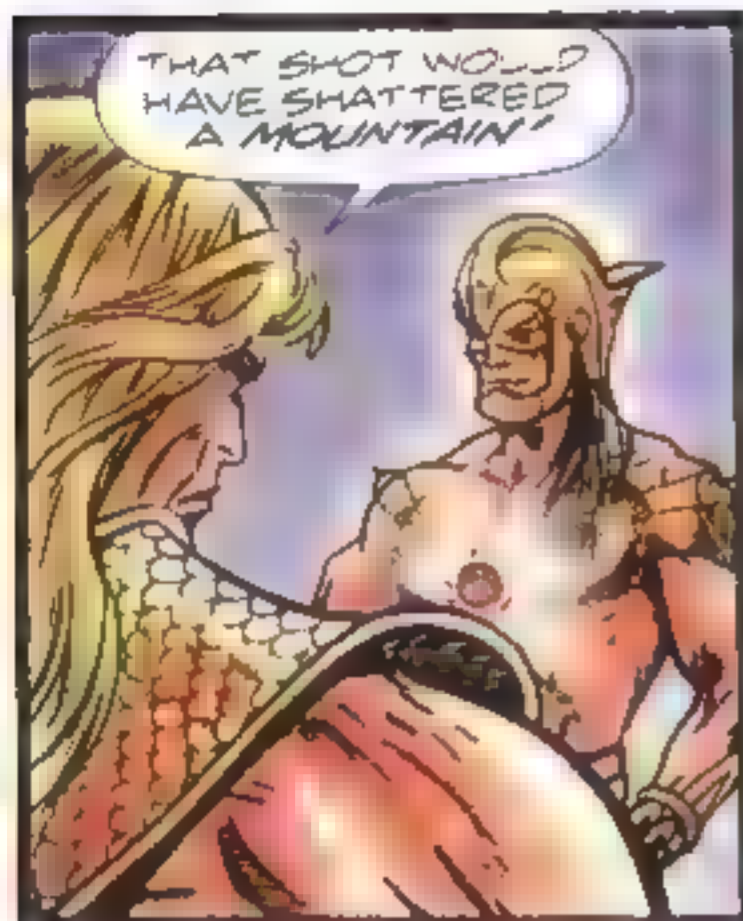


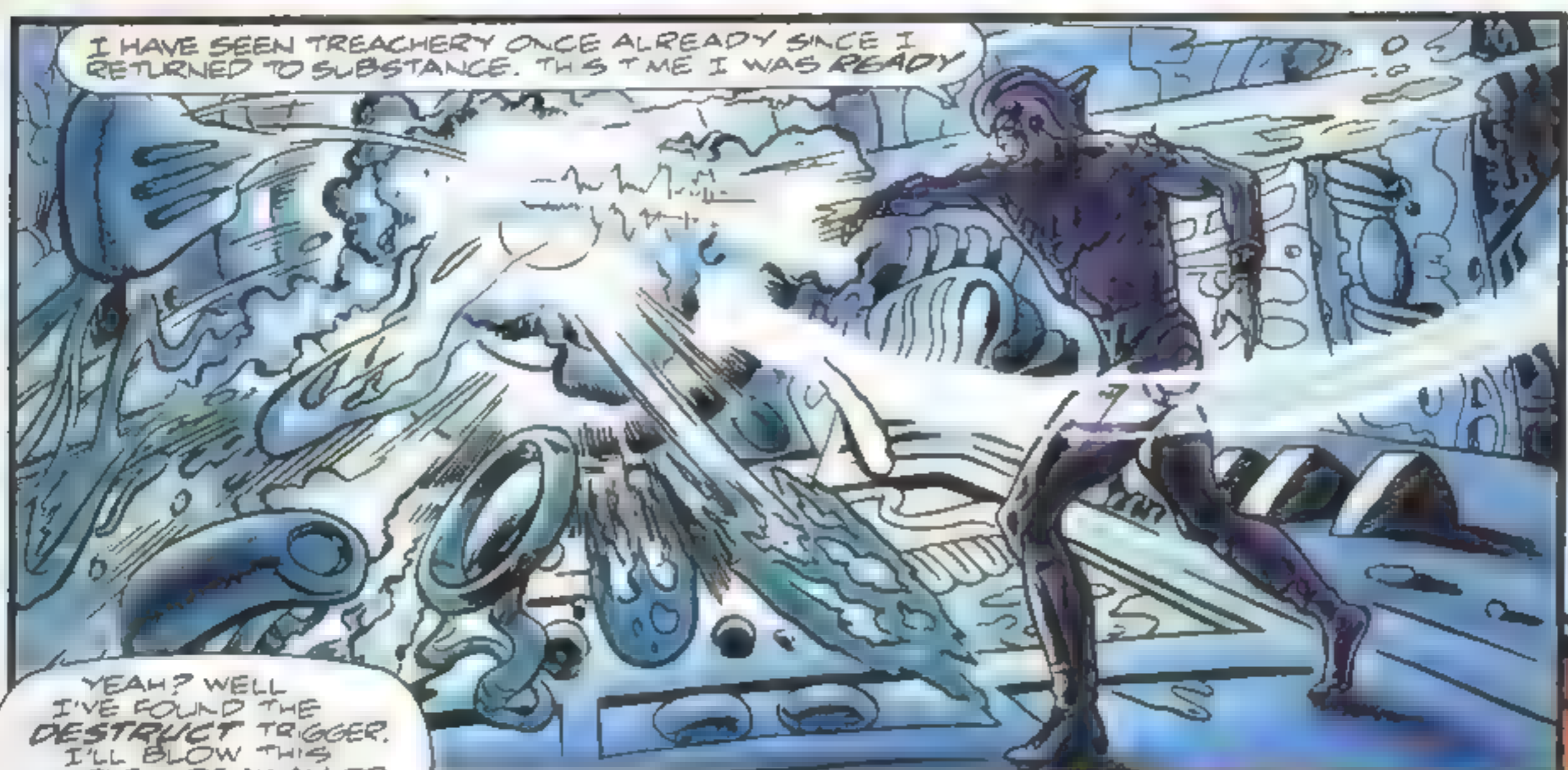
YOU'VE GOT GOOD SHOW-MANSHIP. I'LL GRANT YOU THAT I CAN FEEL THE ENERGY YOU'RE RADIATING

NICE TOUCH, SHORTING OUT THE CONDUITS AS YOU PASS. GREAT GIMMICK...




BUT MINE'S BETTER!





YEAH? WELL  
I'VE FOUND THE  
DESTRUCT TRIGGER.  
I'LL BLOW THIS  
WHOLE HIDEAWAY TO  
ATOMS... KILL US BOTH.  
I'M NOT BLUFFING.






THERE'S  
NO  
GRACE  
IN DEATH...

...ESPECIALLY  
THIS  
WAY.

THE MATCH  
IS A  
DRAW!



NO LIFE  
FREQUENCY.  
DEAD.

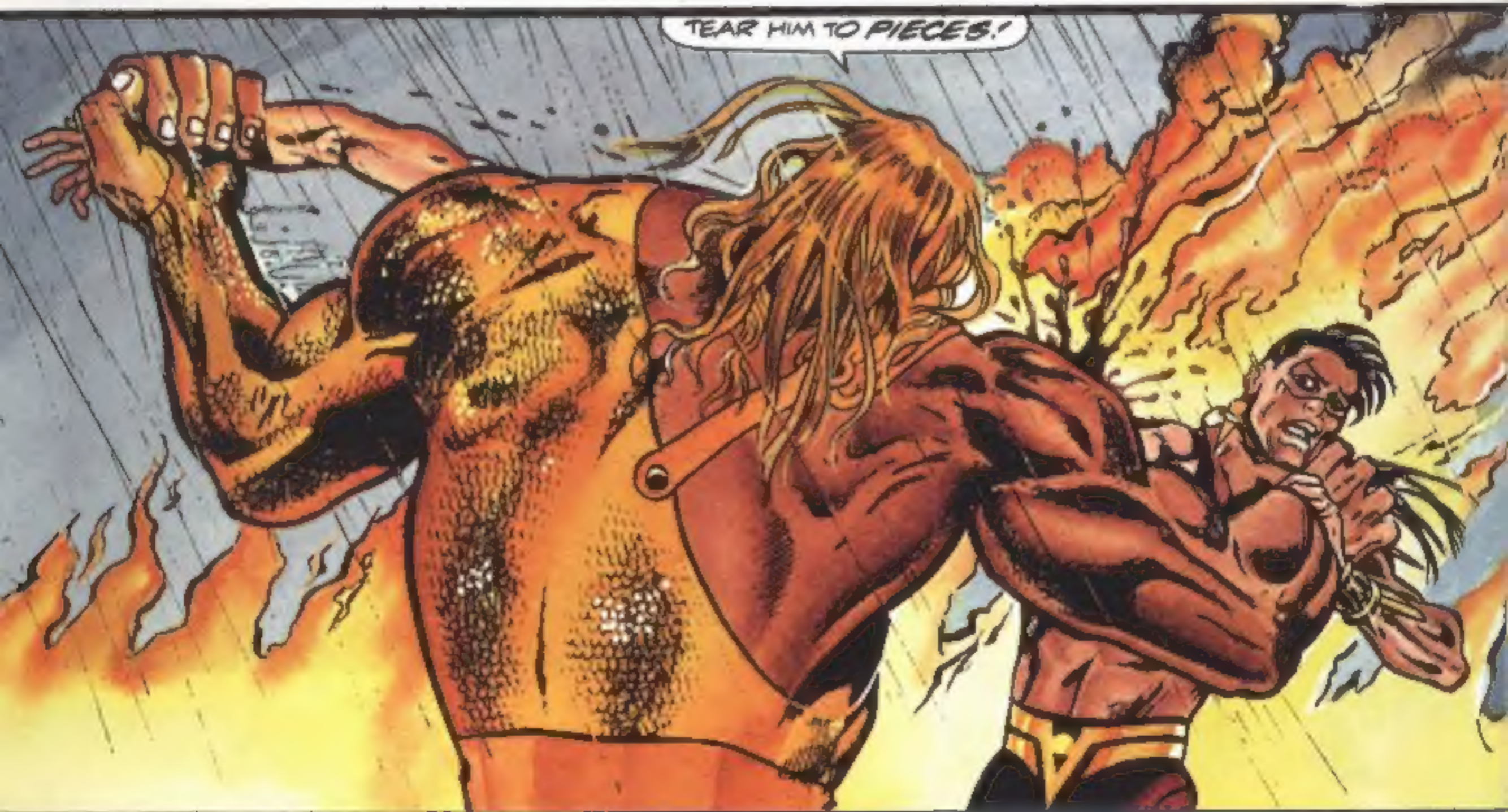
THE  
CLEANSING  
OF THE  
WORLD OF  
DREAMERS  
HAS BEGUN.  
THE FIRST  
OBJECTIVE  
IS MET...

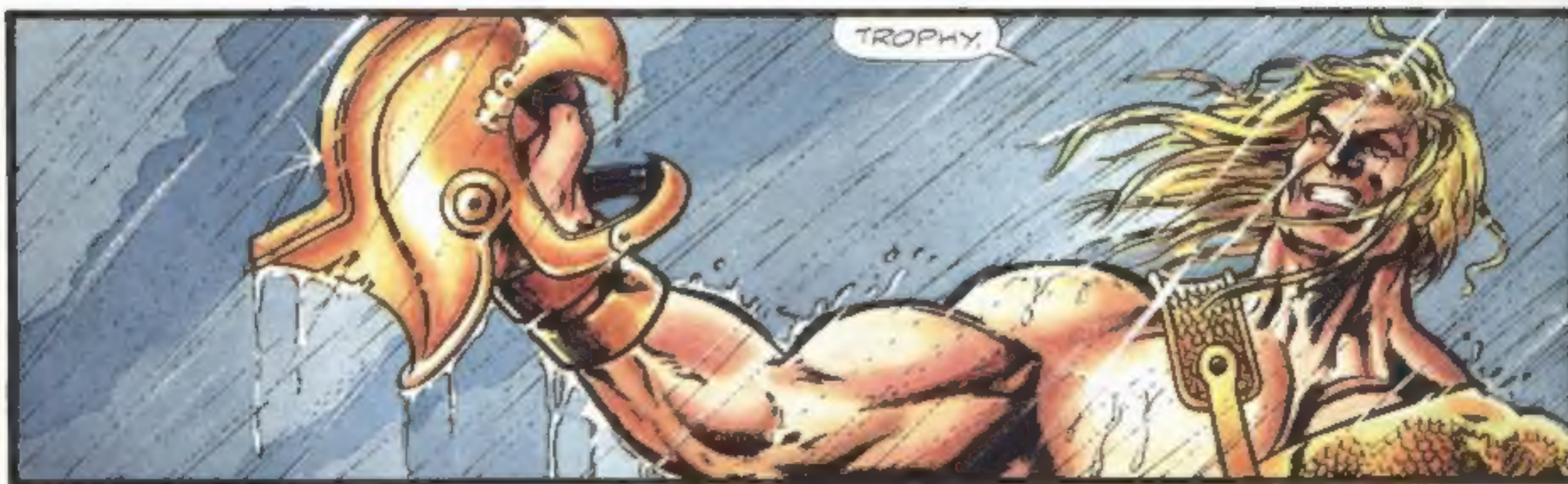
...PERHAPS  
IT IS NOT  
TOO LATE.

SO  
MUCH  
DAMAGE...

COUNTED  
ME OUT  
TOO  
SOON!

HTT!







NEXT:  
ARMAGEDDON  
AT THE  
GARDEN